United Nations S/2014/541

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of Jordan on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 23 July 2014 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, stating that Mrs. Dina Kawar has been appointed representative of Jordan on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

14-58416 (E) 190814

Please recycle

United Nations A/69/162–S/2014/542

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Item 63 of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/278, which was adopted following consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session of my report (A/68/220-S/2013/475) reviewing the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

The report highlights major developments with regard to peace, security and development in Africa over the last 12 months. It also examines the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas identified in the review report, namely, on strengthening institutional cooperation with the African Union and its regional economic communities, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and conflict management, post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian affairs, rule of law and administration of justice, and support for security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

* A/69/150.

14-58436 (E) 110814

Please recycle

Pursuant to the mandate outlined in General Assembly resolution 68/278 to develop policy proposals on persistent and emerging challenges and on the approach and support of the United Nations system, the report provides an in-depth analysis of the transformative agenda of the African Union to achieve a conflict-free Africa, as outlined in the Organization of African Unity/African Union Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration and Agenda 2063, the forthcoming ambitious 50-year plan of the African Union. This agenda reflects a political commitment to progressively and concretely address persistent and emerging challenges to peace and security in Africa, while simultaneously ensuring stable and enduring conditions for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Concerted action by African countries, regional institutions, the private sector, civil society, and sustained and strategic partnerships with the international community, including the United Nations, will be critical in realizing this agenda.

I. Introduction

1. In response to a request from the Security Council in 1998, the Secretary-General undertook a comprehensive analysis of the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report proposed specific measures aimed at reducing conflict, building durable peace and promoting sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

2. Subsequent to that report, in 2009, in its resolution 63/304, the General Assembly requested me to submit a report reviewing the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report.

3. A comprehensive review was undertaken, including broad-based consultations with Member States, the African Union and African regional economic communities, civil society organizations and the United Nations system through the interdepartmental task force on African affairs convened by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The report on the review (A/65/152-S/2010/526) outlined progress made, persistent obstacles and new and emerging challenges facing Africa. It also set out concrete recommendations and proposals for renewed United Nations engagement with Africa.

4. Pursuant to the requests of the General Assembly, outlined in its successive resolutions on the subject, I continue to submit, on an annual basis, a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, focusing, among other things, on pressing issues and innovative solutions in the continent. The present report focuses on the transformative agenda of the African Union to achieve a conflict-free Africa, as set forth by the African Union Heads of State and Government in their Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration. The agenda is intended to be an integral part of Agenda 2063, the forthcoming 50-year transformative development agenda of the African Union. In the interim, it is also aligned with the overall vision of both the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Strategic Plans for the period 2014-2017.

II. The year in review

5. Since my last report, and as highlighted in my report on NEPAD (A/69/161), Africa has further expounded on its vision of an African renaissance and of a continent on the rise. African countries have made tangible progress in reforming their economies, boosting economic growth, improving governance and respect for the rule of law, and managing and resolving conflicts. In Madagascar, Guinea-Bissau and Egypt, transition processes were concluded with the successful conduct of elections, the restoration of constitutional order and the reinstatement of these countries into the activities of the African Union. Progress was also made to end the rebellion by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to implement the regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

6. While these positive trends have created a favourable climate for investment and a new spirit of optimism about Africa's prospects, there have also been some reversals. In the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan, renewed hostilities and threats from growing acts of terrorism, violent

extremism and transnational organized crime have resulted in challenges to both peace and development. The United Nations continued to work closely with the African Union and its regional economic communities to support their regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution in addressing these problems.

7. The Security Council, after consultations with the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic, led by interim President Catherine Samba-Panza, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), adopted resolution 2149 (2014), establishing the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The resolution further mandates the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014.

8. The United Nations, through MINUSCA, will support the transitional authorities to implement the transitional process, including through efforts to extend State authority and preserve territorial integrity. MINUSCA is also mandated to protect civilians, promote and protect human rights, provide humanitarian assistance, support national and international justice, the rule of law and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation. Coordination of efforts with the African Union, ECCAS, the European Union mission to the Central African Republic, the French forces and the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, will be critical for the success of the mission.

9. Since the outbreak of violence in South Sudan in December 2013, the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation has deteriorated, in spite of multiple signed agreements on the resolution of the crisis. The United Nations, the African Union and Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have been involved in the mediation process and continue to facilitate political dialogue aimed at finding lasting solutions to the crisis. In March 2014, IGAD decided to deploy a regional force to South Sudan. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2155 (2014), the United Nations, through the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), will continue to assist the IGAD ceasefire monitoring operations in South Sudan.

10. South Sudan and the Sudan made progress in implementing the road map that was adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council in April 2012 and endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2046 (2012), outlining the steps to defuse the tension between the two countries. However, the African Union team of experts, mandated to provide a non-binding opinion on the status of the five disputed border areas and the work of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, made little progress. My Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan will continue to work closely with the two countries, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the United Nations missions in the region towards the full implementation of the cooperation agreements.

11. The recurring cycle of inter-communal violence in Darfur has resulted in deaths and further displacement of the civilian population. The African Union/United Nations Joint Special Representative and Chief Mediator for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) continues to work closely on the peace process with facilitators of the Darfur-based Internal Dialogue and Consultations, notably the African Union, UNAMID, the State of

Qatar and the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

12. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the rebellion by M23 officially ended with the signing of the Nairobi Declaration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2013. The United Nations continues to work closely with the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to implement the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

13. Pursuant to the framework agreement and the conclusions of the Kampala dialogue, the Congolese Government passed the amnesty law covering acts of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is an important step that will advance the peace consolidation process. In addition, the Governments of the region, the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the team of Special Envoys in the region launched the Great Lakes Women's Platform, the forum on private investment to support the implementation of the framework agreement, and the forum of hope for youths of the countries of the region. These efforts strengthen implementation of the cooperation framework and solidify the nexus between development, peace and security.

14. In Libya, the political and security situation continues to deteriorate. The United Nations, through the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) remains engaged in providing support to the authorities, including for the holding of parliamentary elections on 25 June and to facilitate a Libyan-led political dialogue aimed at forging an agreement by political actors and armed groups on the future of the transition. However, deep political polarization alongside increasingly violent clashes between the main armed groups continues to undermine the fledgling political transition process.

15. Developments in Somalia demonstrate the value of the strategic partnership between the Government, the African Union and the United Nations. Despite challenges, the country continues to make progress towards reconciliation and peace consolidation. The Federal Government of Somalia convened a "Vision 2016" Conference in September 2013, and has started legislative work to appoint the commissions that will lead the constitutional review, the delineation of boundaries and the preparation for elections in 2016. However, Al-Shabaab continues to pose significant threats to the peace, security and development of Somalia and the region. I have strongly condemned their activities, including the 8 July 2014 attacks on the presidential palace, and stated that continued international support is required to combat terrorism in the country and region.

16. In addition, the Federal Government of Somalia needs financial and capacity-building support to enable it to deliver security and social services, build capable public institutions and boost the economy. The international community had in 2013 pledged $2.4 billion as part of the New Deal Compact to promote peace and State-building efforts. However, despite commitments, financial support to Somalia has been especially low. Some donors have further announced a decrease in their contributions, and the trend is likely to continue into 2015. It is important that the international community remains fully committed to supporting the peace consolidation efforts of Somalia.

17. In West Africa, growing acts of terrorism and transnational organized crime in northern Mali and north-east Nigeria continue to exacerbate insecurity, gross violations of human rights and disregard for international humanitarian law. With the support of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the international community, including the United Nations, the Government of Mali continues to implement the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, stabilize the country, strengthen democratic processes and institutions, and combat terrorism and transnational organized crime.

18. At the regional level, neighbouring countries have also enhanced cooperation to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger created the Group of Five Sahel Nouakchott framework to intensify their security cooperation and operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Sahara region. In support of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched its strategy for the Sahel for the period 2013-2017, which seeks to foster cooperation with neighbouring countries in North and West Africa on criminal justice, in order to combat illicit trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and corruption.

19. Following the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria, arising from the frequent and lethal attacks by Boko Haram, the United Nations strengthened its support to the Government of Nigeria, providing an integrated support package that includes immediate support for affected families and communities, as well as for the abducted Chibok girls, upon their rescue, release or escape. The package includes psychosocial counselling and reintegration support for the girls and emergency needs and early recovery support, to help in tackling some of the long-term national structural challenges.

20. In May 2014, the Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee decided to include Boko Haram on its sanctions list. In my report on children and armed conflict (A/68/878-S/2014/339) of May 2014, I also included Boko Haram as a new party on the list of parties that recruit or use children, kill or maim children, commit rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, or engage in attacks on schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council, or in other situations Going forward, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), my Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict will work with relevant stakeholders to establish the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations undertaken by Boko Haram. In general, as the country prepares for elections in 2015, concerted political action is required to deal with growing security concerns. My High-level Representative to Nigeria will continue to lead the efforts of the United Nations in supporting the country's own efforts to restore security, promote human rights and address the humanitarian situation in the north-east.

21. Other important developments relate to the successful conduct of elections in Algeria, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia's Puntland and South Africa. An additional 8 African countries are scheduled to hold elections before the end of 2014 and 11 more in 2015. Given the proclivity of elections to act as triggers of conflict, and building on the recommendations in my previous report to the General Assembly on election-triggered conflict (A/68/220-S/2013/475), I encourage all actors, particularly at national levels, to create conducive conditions for inclusive, free,

credible and peaceful elections. The United Nations will continue to work closely with the African Union and the regional economic communities to provide support to countries undergoing elections, before, during and after the polls.

22. The African Peer Review Mechanism can provide useful lessons learned and best practices on how to successfully manage elections. On this note, I welcome the accession of Equatorial Guinea to the Mechanism. I also congratulate South Africa and Mozambique for their respective progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action. Meanwhile, the Mechanism still requires substantial financial and capacity-building support to advance its activities. The international community should continue to support this important voluntary mechanism.

23. Given the strong links between natural resources, conflict and fragility in Africa, concerted efforts were made by the African Union, in collaboration with the United Nations, to advance Africa's transformative agenda for sustainable natural resource management. The agenda aims to promote economic transformation through commodity-based industrialization and to address poverty, inequality and youth unemployment.

III. Enhanced focus on the nexus between peace, security and development

24. In my review report (A/65/152-S/2010/526), I underscored the importance of linking economic growth and socioeconomic development with peace, security, stability, governance, rule of law and human rights. Rapid socioeconomic transformation, the current priority of the African Union, can be achieved faster under a peaceful, secure and stable environment. Likewise, durable peace and security are enabled by inclusive and sustained socioeconomic development.

25. In demonstrating my commitment to operationalizing this nexus, I undertook two joint visits, with the President of the World Bank, to the Great Lakes and Sahel regions in Africa in May and November 2013, respectively. Our message was that peace and development must go hand-in-hand. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the African Development Bank, my Special Envoy for the Sahel and the Commissioner for Development of the European Union joined us in our visit to the Sahel region. The visits catalysed the mobilization of resources for peace, stability and development initiatives in both regions.

26. In the Great Lakes region, the World Bank committed $1 billion to provide better health and education services, generate more cross-border trade and fund hydroelectricity projects in support of the framework agreement for peace, security and cooperation. In the Sahel region, a contribution of $8.25 billion was made towards boosting economic growth and eradicating poverty, through projects that would support peace and security efforts.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations in the review report

27. The present section provides an overview of the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas for Africa's peace and security agenda identified in my review report.

A. Institutional cooperation

28. Within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, the United Nations and the African Union continued to enhance their institutional cooperation on 10 thematic clusters, including peace and security and governance. In 2013, both organizations undertook the second triennial review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and presented its report to the fifteenth session of the Mechanism, which was held in Abuja in March 2014.

29. The outcome document of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa meeting called for greater engagements with the regional economic communities, especially in formulating a comprehensive long-term United Nations programme of support to the African Union as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union upon its expiration in 2016. It also called for greater coherence and coordination of United Nations system support to Africa and underlined the role of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs in enabling the organization to deliver as one.

30. In addition, a joint review of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa was undertaken to better align it with both the African Union Commission and NEPAD Strategic Plans for 2014-2017 and the African Union Agenda 2063. A key decision was taken to hold the Mechanism meetings on the margins of the joint annual meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, so as to enable high-level engagements of senior officials.

31. On peace and security, both organizations continued to enhance their cooperation on different components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including on early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, electoral assistance, peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. Consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements, the United Nations Security Council and Peace and Security Council of the African Union continued to strengthen their partnership in conflict prevention, resolution, management and peacekeeping. In June 2014, they held their eighth joint consultative meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and, among other things, observed the tenth anniversary of the African Union Peace and Security Council, while agreeing to further elaborate ways of strengthening their relations.

B. Conflict prevention, peacekeeping and conflict management

32. On conflict prevention, the United Nations maintained a determined and cohesive international engagement with the African Union, SADC, donors and local stakeholders like the Independent National Electoral Commission by deploying its high-level good offices in Madagascar to prevent conflict and ensure the conduct of peaceful elections. As part of their conflict prevention strategies, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union and ECOWAS organized the fifth Africa regional platform and third ministerial meeting on disaster risk

reduction in May 2014 in Nigeria. The meeting called for integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as means to prevent conflict.

33. In peacekeeping, there was growing cooperation between the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army. Their joint military operations resulted in the recovery of more towns from Al-Shabaab control. Support to the Somali security forces increased, including through a United Nations trust fund, assisted delivery of a non-lethal package to the Somali National Army forces fighting alongside AMISOM. This was authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013), which also extended the mandate of AMISOM for an additional year and increased the troop level to 22,126.

34. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Forces armées de la Republique démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including its intervention brigade, continue to intensify their joint operations to oust destabilizing armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and LRA.

35. Recent global considerations and decisions on United Nations peacekeeping were also pertinent for Africa. Drawing on the experiences with the MONUSCO intervention brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council convened an open debate in June 2014 on new trends in United Nations peacekeeping that deliberated on the boundaries of traditional peacekeeping through peace enforcement. The General Assembly, in June 2014, adopted resolution 68/281 on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, manifesting the recognition by Member States of the importance of peacekeeping in addressing conflicts. These are welcome developments for Africa, where more than two thirds of all United Nations military, police and civilian personnel operate. As the continent is increasingly contributing to United Nations peacekeeping and seeks to further strengthen its peacekeeping capacity, including through the operationalization of both its African Standby Force and its rapid deployment capability, these global debates and decisions are particularly relevant for Africa.

C. Post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery

36. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund support to 15 African countries during the review period amounted to about $50 million. As stated in its May 2014 review report,[1] roughly 60 per cent of its annual allocations were made in support of the six countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission: Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The remaining funds supported important peacebuilding initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Niger.

37. In the Central African Republic, the Peacebuilding Fund facilitated rapid response to the crisis by providing financial assistance to enable the rehabilitation of police and gendarmerie facilities in Bangui, facilitating the urgent deployment of human rights monitors in support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), and reinforcing the transitional

[1] The report is available at www.unpbf.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Report-May-UN-PBF.pdf.

authorities by paying salaries of the police and gendarmerie for a limited period of four months in 2014.

38. In the light of significant advances in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) drew down in March 2014 and transferred its residual activities to the Government and the United Nations country team. UNIPSIL successes underscore the importance of national ownership and leadership, inclusive political dialogue, coordination and sustained resources for efforts to bring about peace, stability and development. In July 2014, the Peacebuilding Fund approved additional funding for peace consolidation in post-transition Sierra Leone. This included $525,000 for consolidated human rights support activities in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and $1,525,000 to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for developing national mechanisms and capacities for peace consolidation and conflict prevention in Sierra Leone.

39. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also continued to support countries in fragile situations with an approach that emphasized the need for proper assessment of the political and institutional environment and the design of economic strategies that are gradual, flexible and tailored to the country's capacity constraints. IMF provides assistance both financially and through policy advice and technical assistance, including through the Rapid Credit Facility that provides immediate financing support. The Central African Republic, Madagascar and Mali received support through the Rapid Credit Facility. IMF also supported capacity-building in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda in natural resource revenue management, tax administration, public financial management, banking and monetary issues and macroeconomic statistics.

D. Human rights and humanitarian affairs

40. In line with the "Rights up front" initiative, which I launched in December 2013, United Nations system entities continued to take concrete actions to integrate human rights into their strategies and operational activities. With the support of UNDP, in May 2014, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted the Guidelines on the Use and Conditions of Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention in Africa, which set the continental agenda for acceptable pretrial justice practice. The Commission also adopted a four-year strategic plan (2014-2017), which will be aligned with the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063.

41. OHCHR continued to provide secretariat support to the International Commission of Inquiry for the Central African Republic and technical assistance to the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan. In line with the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, OHCHR will engage the Malian authorities on modalities for establishing an international commission of inquiry to investigate the incidents in Kidal, if the authorities decide to go forward with this. On 27 June 2014, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing an international commission of inquiry, for a period of one year, to investigate all alleged violations of human rights in Eritrea.

42. A recent UNMISS report, "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report",[2] revealed that there are reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the conflict have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The interim report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, submitted to the African Union Assembly in June 2014, further highlighted allegations of sexual and gender-based violence. In response, UNMISS has intensified its work on human rights monitoring and reporting and the protection of civilians. Similarly, in response to developments on the ground, UNAMID increased efforts to protect civilians and promote human rights in Darfur. UNDP strengthened national capacities to investigate and prosecute international crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including crimes related to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.

43. On the humanitarian front, food security in South Sudan deteriorated at an alarming rate and resulted in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expanding its humanitarian action to support 3.3 million conflict-affected people with emergency livelihood support. In Somalia, humanitarian needs remained acute as financial support has been especially low, with only 19 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded. In addition, there are re-emerging signs of drought. Consequently in June 2014, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued an appeal for $60 million to address urgent food, nutrition and health-care needs for the next three months.

44. In the Sahel region, the number of food insecure people is expected to increase from 20 million to 24 million by the end of July 2014, owing to a combination of both acute and chronic factors such as climate change, conflict and population growth. An increase in the caseload of food insecure people is expected to take place in northern Cameroon, Mali, Senegal and Northern Nigeria for the first time. The regional strategic response plan for the Sahel of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that was launched in February 2014 is responding to this situation through life-saving activities.

E. Rule of law and the administration of justice

45. During the review period, the United Nations continued to shape global debates on the rule of law. In February 2014, the Security Council held an open debate on the rule of law to deliberate on my report on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations (S/2013/341). Among other things, the report outlined that the United Nations, through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has provided wide-ranging assistance to Governments, from constitution-making to strengthening police, justice and corrections institutions, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. In June 2014, the General Assembly held a high-level event on the contributions of human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda.

[2] The report is available at http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5805&language=en-us.

46. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations provided support for the restoration of State authority through projects aimed at strengthening the judiciary, the security sector and penitentiary institutions, and improving access to justice for victims of sexual violence in South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri. The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) supported the Ministry of Justice in developing a strategic plan to fight corruption in the justice sector and improve equal access to justice.

47. Under its regional programme for Arab States, 2011-2015, UNODC continued to support countries in North Africa, notably Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, to improve their criminal justice systems in order to strengthen the rule of law. Similar support is being provided to Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia under the auspices of the regional programme for eastern Africa, 2009-2015.

48. The United Nations Democracy Fund continued to support civil society engagement for good governance and the rule of law. Recent projects of the Fund have included collaborative efforts by judges and community workers to promote access to justice in Malawi, support local peace structures to prevent community-based conflicts in Sierra Leone, support for local governance in mining zones of Guinea and support for civil society participation in local governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

F. Economic growth and sustainable development

49. In the last 12 months, the African Union developed its Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and framed its priorities for the sustainable development goals. These processes were extensively supported by various United Nations system entities, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and the regional economic communities. For instance, ECA, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and UNDP supported the efforts of the African Union Commission to influence acceleration of Millennium Development Goals implementation as the foundation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. ECA, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and other partners also organized the African ministerial consultative meeting on the sustainable development goals, providing a platform for African countries to identify, articulate and reach consensus on regional development priorities. In line with General Assembly resolution 67/294, the United Nations will continue to give due attention to Africa's priorities, including the NEPAD priorities, in the last phase of our formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

50. The Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the first Economic and Social Council integration segment on sustainable urbanization, including a panel event on the theme "Sustainable urbanization in Africa", in May 2014, to raise awareness about and advocate for Africa's sustainable development priorities. On the Africa Industrialization Day in November 2013, the African Union, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization organized a joint event that deliberated on job creation and entrepreneurship development as a means to accelerate industrialization in Africa.

51. At the seventh joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014, African ministers discussed industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa. The meeting underscored that Africa's growth has not been sufficiently inclusive and broad-based, because of its continued reliance on the exploitation of raw materials with limited value addition. This does not maximize returns to Africans from the wealth created from the continent's vast natural resources. Therefore, a new approach is required that will ensure Africa's industrialization and structural transformation are inclusive. The meeting underscored the need for coherent long-term development planning frameworks with inclusive development goals and adopted a ministerial statement underscoring a set of actions to advance industrialization for structural transformation that boost African economies, empower citizens and advance African integration.

G. Support for security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

52. In April 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2151 reaffirming the importance of security sector reform in post-conflict situations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO facilitated the development of a national security and justice strategy, provided capacity-building support to the Congolese National Police, including in community policing in Bunia, and supported the Government in the development of its national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

53. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) assisted the national authorities in the implementation of the national security sector reform strategy and is building the capacity of the secretariat of the National Security Council. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is helping the Government enhance oversight, accountability and management of its security sector, and strengthen the financial sustainability of reform efforts.

54. In Mali, MINUSMA is fostering a nationally owned security sector reform programme and coordinating the overall support of the international community in security sector reform. In Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) is supporting the Federal Government's efforts to establish a National Security Council secretariat. In Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations provided support to the permanent secretariat of the national security sector reform steering committee in drafting a concept note on the way forward in implementing up-to-date national security sector reform plans.

V. Persistent and emerging challenges and opportunities: a transformative agenda to achieve a conflict-free Africa

55. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/278, this section provides an overview of persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. It also examines existing and emerging opportunities, notably the African Union's agenda for a conflict-free Africa, and the United Nations approach and support for this agenda.

A. Overview

56. The African Union Assembly, at its fifth ordinary session in Sirte, Libya, in July 2005, adopted a declaration on the review of the Millennium Development Goals (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(V)), in which it pledged to address conflict and political instability on the continent with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The international community, including the United Nations, rallied to support this five-year target.

57. While Africa did make significant progress in addressing and resolving its conflicts, the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2010 was not realized, owing to persistent and new challenges, some of which I have addressed in preceding reports on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. These include the poor management of diversity, elections-triggered conflict, natural resource-based conflicts and youth unemployment.

58. Relentless in its determination to achieve this goal, the African Union Assembly, at its twenty-first ordinary session in May 2013, commemorating 50 years of the Organization of African Unity/African Union, adopted a declaration in which it again pledged to end all wars by 2020 and achieve a conflict-free Africa. The current conflict situations on the continent diminish optimism that Africa will indeed end all wars and be conflict-free in the next six-and-half years. Nevertheless, it is in the collective interest of the international community to work with African Governments, institutions and people, at all levels, in achieving this goal. The role of the United Nations will be extremely important in this regard.

B. Persistent and emerging challenges

59. Africa currently faces a new wave of complex challenges to peace, security, governance and sustainable development, including terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, poor natural resource management and climate change.

60. As my first biennial report on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development (A/69/163) extensively addresses climate change issues, and having previously addressed conflict and natural resources in my 2011 report on the implementation of recommendations (A/66/214-S/2011/476), I will limit this section to discussing terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crimes and illicit financial flows.

1. Terrorism and violent extremism

61. During the review period, Africa experienced increased terrorist activities, in particular in the Maghreb and Sahel regions. This resulted in deaths, human casualties, the destruction of property, abduction, sexual slavery, displacements, the loss of livelihoods, insecurity and the polarization of communities along political, ethnic and religious lines.

62. Terrorism and violent extremism in Africa are enabled by a number of factors. As the cases of Mali, Nigeria and Somalia demonstrate, widespread poverty, poor governance, weak public institutions, economic inequalities and high rates of unemployment create conditions for radicalization and violent extremism. Terrorist

groups exploit these situations to recruit new members and win the hearts and minds of communities. Tackling corruption, creating decent employment, providing basic social services to especially deprived communities and building strong and accountable public institutions are critical for countering radicalization, extremism and delegitimizing popular support for terrorist groups. Public-private partnerships and the engagement of civil society groups, including religious and community leaders, are also important in this process.

63. Countering terrorism also entails a focus on the source of terrorist financing, including kidnapping and hostage-taking. African Union Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.256(XIII)) of July 2009 strongly condemns the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. The United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, at their eighth annual joint consultative meeting, further called on all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages. They also considered sanctions as an important tool in countering terrorism and welcomed the inclusion of Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

2. Transnational organized crime

64. Transnational organized crime continues to pose serious challenges to peace, security and development in Africa. Besides traditional crimes like trafficking in drugs, persons and arms, there is a proliferation of new forms of transnational criminal activities in Africa. These include cybercrime, identity theft, trafficking of cultural property, environmental crimes and counterfeit medicine.

65. Most African countries currently lack the requisite infrastructure to address cybercrimes, including energy, Internet and communications technology. Investments in infrastructure, science and technology, and scientific cooperation within the public and private sectors, are therefore crucial and urgent. In my report on NEPAD (A/69/161) I outlined Africa's efforts in infrastructure development, and science, technology and innovation. I also emphasized the need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships, as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action of June 2014.

66. Furthermore, most militia or armed groups are either linked to transnational criminal groups or directly engaged in environmental crimes as a means of financing their operations. Militia groups in Central Africa are estimated to earn between $4 million and $12.2 million each year from elephant ivory. The Environmental Crime Crisis assessment report,[3] released during the first United Nations Environment Assembly, states that one terrorist group in East Africa is estimated to make between $38 million and $56 million per year from illegal trade in charcoal. In total, militia and terrorist groups in and around African nations with ongoing conflicts may earn between $111 million to $289 million annually from their involvement in, and taxing of, the illegal or unregulated charcoal trade.

67. Transnational organized crimes deprive African economies of billions of dollars, threaten livelihoods and undermine good governance. Hence, the role of Governments, parliaments, security and law enforcement agencies and regional

[3] The report is available at www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2791&ArticleID=10906&l=en.

institutions is critical for strengthening and enforcing legislation to combat these crimes.

3. Illicit financial flows

68. Illicit financial flows are a major development and governance challenge. The loss of national revenue and assets intended for delivering social services and long-term development impairs Governments, communities and businesses from making the investments necessary to create resilient pathways for economic growth and prosperity.

69. In recognition of the enormous cost of illicit financial flows to the development of the continent, the fourth joint African Union/ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in March 2011, adopted a resolution that established the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. According to the progress report of the Panel, that was presented to the Conference of Ministers in Abuja, in March 2014, illicit flows from Africa amount to approximately $50 billion annually. This is approximately the official development assistance that Africa receives every year and, indeed, this estimate may well be short of reality. Noting that this is an African problem with a global solution, the report called for international cooperation and capacity development assistance to Africa in tackling illicit financial flows.

C. Making peace a reality: a renewed plan for a conflict-free Africa

70. In May 2013, the African Union Assembly reaffirmed its determination to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa that is driven and managed by its own citizens. In that regard, African leaders adopted the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, which outlined eight priority agendas for action towards realizing this continental vision: African identity and renaissance, the struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination, integration, social and economic development, peace and security, democratic governance, Africa's destiny, and Africa's place in the world.

71. The agenda on peace and security categorically stated a shared determination to "end all wars in Africa by 2020" and "achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa". Following this, the African Union Peace and Security Council in April 2014 discussed the theme "Silencing guns: prerequisite for realizing a conflict-free Africa by 2020", with the aim of defining a framework of actions required to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2020. The African Union Commission also organized a retreat in South Africa in April 2014 on the same theme, with the participation of senior officials of the United Nations, to establish a precise agenda and workplan for achieving the goal in line with Agenda 2063. The African Union Assembly, in its decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.536(XXIII)) of June 2014, further called for renewed efforts by the African Union member States, the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms towards achieving this objective.

72. The logic of the agenda is unequivocal and sequenced. In the short to medium term, the plan is to silence the guns and end all wars by 2020, as a required precursor for attaining a conflict-free Africa, which is a longer-term goal. Concrete actions to achieve this milestone within the next six-and-half-year period will thus

have to be undertaken in tandem with the longer-term plan being outlined in Agenda 2063. After 2020, efforts to consolidate the gains made during this period and tackle remaining challenges will naturally progress within the framework of Agenda 2063.

73. Substantively, the agenda envisions an inclusive society that is stable, safe and just for all Africans. The African person is at its core, regardless of sex, age, religion, nationality, ethnicity or race, ancestry, class or disability. Consequently, the agenda focuses on overcoming exclusion and promoting inclusive institutions and participatory processes for political, economic, sociocultural and environmental development. Its ideals and guiding principles are Pan-Africanism, respect for human rights, non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, justice and participation of all, including disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups and persons. Its approach encourages collaboration and partnerships among Governments at all levels, civil society, including the media, the private sector, the African diaspora and international partners in harnessing Africa's resources for the development and shared prosperity of its people.

74. In order to achieve this, and as outlined in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the African Union has set out to eradicate recurring and emerging threats, including terrorism, piracy, extremism, armed rebellion and transnational organized crimes like trafficking in narcotics and humans and cybercrimes. The African Union will continue to devise measures to ensure the effective implementation of agreements on landmines and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons. Special attention will be given to the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees, including by eliminating the root causes of all conflicts through sustained investments in conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Alongside this, Africa's peacekeeping and enforcement capacities through the African Standby Force should be operationalized.

75. The African Union undertakes to end impunity and ensure accountability by strengthening national and continental justice institutions. The rule of law, democratic institutions and processes and service delivery capacities will equally be strengthened, alongside efforts to combat corruption and oppression. Underlying this is a commitment to develop human capital, protect rights, particularly those of women, children and the youth, and eradicate diseases. This is closely aligned with my "Rights up front" initiative, and I encourage the African Union to further benefit from the support of the United Nations in this area.

76. The aim of silencing the guns and ending all wars in Africa in a little over six years may appear ambitious, considering the current situations in the Central African Republic, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. These conflicts need to be addressed and resolved as a matter of urgency, if the guns are to be silenced by 2020. This will require the sustained political will, commitment, leadership and responsibility of African Governments and peoples, as well as strategic and sustained partnerships with the international community.

77. As highlighted in preceding sections of the present report, the United Nations is already supporting regional, subregional and national efforts aimed at resolving these conflicts. However, more needs to be done to support the African Union in

achieving the current goal. The General Assembly may wish to consider defining a concrete five-year actionable plan in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2020. Such a plan should seek to accelerate ongoing efforts to resolve the crises in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, among others, while also focusing on quick impact initiatives to be undertaken in close collaboration with the African Union and the regional economic communities.

D. Strengthening United Nations engagement and support for a conflict-free Africa

78. Since June 2011, the General Assembly has repeatedly called for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach among Governments, the African Union, the regional economic communities, the United Nations system and relevant partners in addressing challenges, with a view to achieving progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. The General Assembly reiterated this call in its resolution 68/278.

79. While the support of the international community is important, it should be stressed that the primary responsibility for achieving a conflict-free Africa lies with African Member States and institutions at all levels. As such, the roles and contributions of the United Nations should mainly be in support of Africa's own efforts and agendas, as currently articulated in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD strategic plan 2014-2017, the forthcoming Agenda 2063 and the broad array of African Union instruments on peace, security and development. In other words, United Nations support should be better aligned to the strategic priorities of the African Union.

80. Given varied mandates, resource constraints and competing priorities, United Nations support should be coherent and coordinated. The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the interdepartmental task force on African affairs remain veritable platforms for strengthening coordination and coherence to better deliver as one United Nations. United Nations system entities should strengthen their collaboration within the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, in particular in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, human rights, governance and the rule of law, and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

81. In this regard, the commitments made by Member States, in providing additional financial and human resources, to strengthen the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts to undertake its increasing responsibilities, including as the convener of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, are welcome. This will reflect positively in the implementation of its mandate on peace, security and development.

82. The Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union has also been instrumental in improving coherence and alignment of United Nations system support with the strategic priorities of the African Union, including in conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. As this important programme will expire in 2016, the United Nations and the African Union took a joint decision during the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in Abuja, in March 2014, to establish a working group to start

formulating a successor programme that will also reflect the support of the United Nations to Agenda 2063.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

83. While African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities continue to make progress in consolidating the African Peace and Security Architecture and accelerating efforts to implement the commitments contained in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, in particular on silencing the guns, ending all wars by 2020 and achieving a conflict-free Africa, **the United Nations should intensify its support and cooperation with African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms towards the timely realization of this goal. In particular, the United Nations should consider putting in place a five-year plan to support the efforts of the African Union and the regional economic communities towards achieving a conflict-free Africa. This plan should include measures for accelerating ongoing efforts to address the situation in current epicentres of conflict, as these pose significant threats to the realization of a conflict-free Africa by the set timeline. As sustained and strategic partnerships will be crucial for achieving a conflict-free Africa, this plan should also include measures to systematically engage the private sector and civil society, especially women and youths, in these processes.**

84. The transformative agenda of the African Union underscores the interlinkages between peace, security, development, human rights and governance. **As the United Nations has a comparative advantage in operationalizing this nexus, the United Nations system should strengthen capacity development for the African Union and regional economic communities in this area through the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa.**

85. **As this nexus is further reflected in the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the international community and the United Nations should continue to give due attention to Africa's priorities in ongoing negotiations on the sustainable development goals and in the last phase of formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.**

86. The African Union, at the tenth anniversary of its Peace and Security Council, in May 2014, underscored the need for more resources to support and strengthen the Continental Early Warning System, the good offices role of Special Envoys and Representatives and post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts, including through the African Solidarity Initiative. The Council also emphasized the need for greater engagement with the African Union Panel of the Wise and similar structures at the level of the regional economic communities. **Within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the United Nations should continue to support African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities in further strengthening capacities for early warning, conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation. The growing collaboration between United Nations and the African Union in the area of good offices and between United Nations and African Union Envoys should also be enhanced.**

87. Bearing in mind the importance of good governance and inclusive, effective and accountable public institutions for ensuring durable peace and sustainable development, **the international community, including the United Nations system, should, upon request, support African countries in their ongoing efforts to promote democratic governance, the rule of law and accountability in public institutions. Continued support for inclusive, free, credible and peaceful elections will be important in this regard.**

88. With Africa increasingly appearing to be the new epicentre of terrorism, a coherent security agenda is needed to tackle the growing problem of terrorism and violent extremism. Given that terrorism in Africa is largely a social phenomenon, it is also important to strengthen the engagement of civilians in counter-terrorism efforts. **As such, the United Nations should work closely with the African Union and the regional economic communities in supporting the development and implementation of regional counter-terrorism action plans that are people-centred. As these efforts should ideally include support to victims of terrorism, I also encourage African Governments, the African Union, the regional economic communities and African civil society organizations to utilize the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.**[4]

89. To prevent radicalization and violent extremism, African countries need to take concrete measures to bolster State security forces' and law enforcement agencies' respect for human rights and the rule of law, promote civil-military relations and devise development programmes, particularly for youths. **In this regard, the United Nations should continue to support African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities in implementing the African Union security sector reform policy framework, which was adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government in 2013. The effective implementation of the framework will also be vital for strengthening institutional capacities and regional cooperation among security and law enforcement agencies in addressing transnational organized crime, including trafficking in arms, cyber and environmental crimes.**

90. Given the links between natural resource management and conflict, it is imperative to integrate natural resource management and environmental considerations into frameworks for conflict prevention, management and resolution. **I call on United Nations system entities to mainstream this perspective within their various mandates and expertise in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.**

91. **Given the impact of illicit financial flows on Africa's governance and structural transformation agendas, African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities, in cooperation with the international community, should further strengthen efforts to confront the scourge of illicit financial flows, including through combating corruption in both public and corporate sectors and preventing tax evasion.**

92. As Africa's transformation agenda is still evolving and includes a number of different components, it is important to closely monitor its development to ensure that the support of the United Nations system is constantly aligned with Africa's

[4] www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/en.

priorities. **In this regard, United Nations system entities should strengthen coherence and coordination within the interdepartmental task force on African affairs to monitor and report on these developments. In addition, as the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union expires in 2016, the United Nations and the African Union should accelerate the work of the joint working group established by the fifteenth Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to propose to Member States a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union that will be closely aligned to the Agenda 2063 of the African Union.**

United Nations S/2014/543

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 July 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of Argentina on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 23 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations stating that Ms. Carolina Pérez Colman, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, will represent Argentina at the 7,228th meeting of the Council, to be held on 28 July 2014.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

14-58450 (E) 300714

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/544

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 24 July 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), established by the Security Council in its resolution 2149 (2014) of 10 April 2014.

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint Major General Martin Chomu Tumenta (Cameroon) as Force Commander of MINUSCA. Major General Tumenta will commence his appointment on 15 September 2014 at the time of the transfer of authority between the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and MINUSCA.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-58451 (E) 300714

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/545

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 28 July 2014 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 24 July 2014 (S/2014/544) concerning your intention to appoint Major General Martin Chomu Tumenta (Cameroon) as Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Eugène-Richard **Gasana**
President of the Security Council

14-58452 (E) 300714

Please recycle

United Nations A/69/206–S/2014/546

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Item 72 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and to the members of the Security Council the nineteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, submitted by the President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda in accordance with article 32 of its statute (see Security Council resolution 955 (1994), annex), which states:

> The President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda shall submit an annual report of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the Security Council and to the General Assembly.

* A/69/150.

14-57957 (E) 140814

Please recycle

Letter of transmittal

1 August 2014

Excellencies,

I have the honour to submit the nineteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, dated 1 August 2014, to the General Assembly and the Security Council, pursuant to article 32 of the statute of the International Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Vagn **Joensen**
President

President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Nineteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Summary

The present annual report outlines the activities of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

During the past year, the Tribunal transferred a second accused in its custody to Rwanda for trial and continued its efforts to complete the remaining appeals expeditiously. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber rendered three judgements concerning five persons, bringing the total number of persons whose judgements have been completed at the appellate level to 51. Completion of the appeals work in all but one case remains on track for completion before the end of 2014, with the final judgement in the multi-accused *Butare* case, concerning six accused, expected not before August 2015.

The Office of the Prosecutor focused on handing over of responsibility for tracking of fugitives to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and providing support for national authorities in the prosecution of crimes relating to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Continuous support was also extended to Rwandan authorities to assist them in preparing for the transfer of cases from the Tribunal.

The Registry continued to provide a high level of administrative and judicial support to the Tribunal and to the Mechanism, the Arusha branch of which opened on 1 July 2012. The Registry ensured the cooperation and assistance of Member States with the Tribunal and further strengthened its outreach and capacity-building activities in Rwanda. The Division of Administrative Support Services continued to ensure the efficient management of the Tribunal's downsizing process and handover to the Mechanism, while at the same time preparing staff members for a life after the Tribunal.

All organs of the Tribunal are devoting their best efforts to completing the work of the Tribunal expeditiously, and a smooth transition to the Mechanism is now well under way. The following objectives require essential cooperation and support of Member States: three fugitives remain to be arrested by the Mechanism, nine acquitted persons and three persons who have completed their sentences need countries for relocation, and the Tribunal needs to be provided with sufficient resources to be in a position to complete its tasks in the time frame expected. The Tribunal relies on the ongoing support of Member States to achieve these goals.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	5
II.	Activities of the Tribunal	5
	A. Activities of the President	5
	B. Activities of coordination mechanisms	7
	C. Activity of the Chambers	7
	D. Activities of the Office of the Prosecutor	9
	E. Activities of the Registry	10
III.	Conclusion and recommendations	16

I. Introduction

1. The present nineteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994 outlines the activities of the Tribunal for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

2. The Tribunal, through the Office of the President, the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry, has continued its efforts to meet the goals of its completion strategy, as endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1503 (2003), with intense appeals judgement drafting and other activities in the Appeals Chamber remaining as the Tribunal's core focus. During the reporting period, the Tribunal continued to hand over responsibilities to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the Arusha branch of which commenced operations on 1 July 2012. The smooth transition to the Mechanism is now well under way.

II. Activities of the Tribunal

3. As at 30 June 2014, the Tribunal consists of the Trial Chamber, the Appeals Chamber, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry. The President, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark), the Prosecutor, Hassan Bubacar Jallow (the Gambia) and the Registrar, Bongani Majola (South Africa) remain since the previous reporting period. The terms of the Tribunal's President and Prosecutor, who also serve as the duty judge of the Arusha branch and Prosecutor, respectively, of the Mechanism, expire on 31 December 2014. Extensions for both terms will be requested later in 2014, in line with projections for completion of the Tribunal's remaining work in 2015, as detailed herein.

A. Activities of the President

1. Judicial activity

4. During the reporting period, the President issued orders and decisions on a variety of matters in his role as both President of the Tribunal and duty judge of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism. Those decisions and orders related to matters including State cooperation, amendment of indictments and arrest warrants, witness protection review and contempt allegations related to both the Tribunal and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

2. Completion strategy

5. In close cooperation with the Prosecutor and the Registrar, the President has continued to implement the Tribunal's completion strategy. On 5 December 2013 and 5 June 2014, the President presented the six-monthly completion strategy reports to the Security Council. In the course of the reporting period, the Tribunal issued three judgements at the appeals level concerning five accused. The work at the trial level was completed in December 2012 and only appeals remain.

6. Any further staff attrition would be an impediment to the timely achievement of completion strategy goals, especially in the Appeals Chamber. Replacement of departing staff members is a lengthy process, which even in a best-case scenario would result in delays and cannot compensate for the continuous loss of institutional memory. The Security Council, in its resolution 2054 (2012), reiterated its call upon the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to work with the Registrar of the Tribunal in order to find practicable solutions to address the staffing situation.

7. The Security Council, in its resolution 1966 (2010) establishing the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, requested the Secretary-General to make the practical arrangements necessary for the commencement of the Mechanism's operations. Under the direction of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Tribunal has worked closely with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism to implement that mandate. The initial priority was to develop a budget proposal for the biennium 2012-2013 and a draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The budget was approved by the General Assembly and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence were adopted by the judges of the Mechanism in June 2012. The next steps focused on harmonizing the policies, procedures and operations of the two Tribunals, and initial provision by the Tribunal of administrative services to the Mechanism. Those efforts resulted in the successful opening of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism on 1 July 2012, following which most judicial and prosecutorial functions have now been handed over from the Tribunal to the Mechanism. The remaining functions are being handed over on a continuous basis at the appropriate time, as agreed upon by the Tribunal and the Mechanism and in line with the Transitional Arrangements and resolution 1966 (2010).

3. Diplomatic relations and other representation

8. The President maintained regular contact with United Nations Headquarters and the diplomatic community in the host country, at the seat of the United Nations, and in other countries. The United Nations Secretariat, and in particular the Office of Legal Affairs, provided important legal advice and diplomatic support to ensure smooth cooperation between the Tribunal, the Security Council and the General Assembly.

9. On the occasion of their briefings before the Security Council, both the President and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal participated in meetings of the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals. This allowed for comprehensive and open discussions with the legal advisers of the members of the Security Council. The Registrar also participated in the June 2014 meeting of the Informal Working Group in order to provide detailed information on the issue of relocating acquitted and convicted released persons.

10. The President has continued to work closely with the Registrar to engage in diplomatic efforts towards the relocation of persons acquitted by the Tribunal and those convicted persons who have completed their sentences and have been released from the United Nations Detention Facility in the United Republic of Tanzania. Enhanced cooperation of Member States on the issue of relocation will be required in order for the Tribunal to be successful in implementing its strategic plan for relocation prior to the closure of the Tribunal.

B. Activities of coordination mechanisms

1. Coordination Council

11. The Coordination Council, consisting of the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, met regularly to discuss issues affecting the entire Tribunal, such as the completion strategy, staffing, cooperation with the Mechanism and budgetary and financial matters. A Joint Coordination Council, consisting of the Presidents, Registrars and Prosecutors of the Tribunal and Mechanism, also met regularly in order to take policy decisions to ensure coordinated efforts in preparation of the budgets of the two institutions for the biennium 2014-2015 and with respect to the ongoing transition.

2. Plenary session

12. During the reporting period, no formal plenary session was held. However, the President was in regular contact with the presiding judges of the remaining appeals cases in order to monitor the progress of the cases and deal with issues that may lead to difficulties in meeting completion targets.

3. Rules Committee

13. The Rules Committee submits or discusses proposals for amendments of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. During the reporting period, the Committee did not have any meetings, as no further revisions to the Rules were required to be considered.

C. Activity of the Chambers

1. Composition of the Chambers

14. The Chambers currently comprise one Trial Chamber and one Appeals Chamber and are currently composed of 12 permanent judges in the Appeals Chamber and one ad litem judge serving as President.

15. The one remaining ad litem judge, President Vagn Joensen (Denmark), is a member of the Trial Chamber. On 31 May 2013, Judge Andrésia Vaz (Senegal) resigned from her position as permanent judge of the Appeals Chamber, leaving 10 judges on the Appeals Chamber. In accordance with article 12 bis of the statute of the Tribunal, following a request from the President of the Tribunal to the Secretary-General, a replacement judge, Mandiaye Niang (Senegal) was appointed on 11 September 2013 to serve the remainder of Judge Vaz's term, until 31 December 2014. The General Assembly also elected Koffi Afande (Togo) in November 2013 to serve as a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Judge Afande was assigned to the joint Appeals Chamber for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and was sworn in as a permanent judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on 13 December 2013.

16. Twelve permanent judges currently sit on the Appeals Chamber, including the two recent additions. Six of them are from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, namely, Judges William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania), Mehmet Güney (Turkey), Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar), Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan),

Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation) and Mandiaye Niang (Senegal). The six other permanent judges on the Appeals Chamber are from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, namely, Judges Theodor Meron (United States of America) as presiding judge, Patrick Robinson (Jamaica), Fausto Pocar (Italy), Liu Daqun (China), Carmel Agius (Malta) and Koffi Afande (Togo).

2. Principal activity of the Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber

(a) Trial Chamber

17. The substantive work before the Trial Chamber is complete.

(b) Appeals Chamber

18. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber was seized of appeals from seven judgements concerning 15 persons. The Appeals Chamber rendered three final judgements concerning five persons, and 57 pre-appeal orders and decisions.

Appeal Judgements: *Ndahimana, Ndindiliyimana et al.* and *Bizimungu*

19. Trial Chamber II convicted Grégoire Ndahimana, a former *bourgmestre*, of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity on 17 November 2011 and sentenced him to 15 years of imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals on 6 May 2013. In its judgement of 16 December 2013, the Appeals Chamber affirmed Ndahimana's convictions, entered findings concerning his form of responsibility and the Trial Chamber's determination of his sentence, and increased his sentence to 25 years of imprisonment.

20. From 7 to 10 May 2013, the Appeals Chamber heard appeals from the judgement of Trial Chamber II in the *Ndindiliyimana et al. ("Military II")* case pronounced on 17 May 2011. The Trial Chamber convicted Augustin Ndindiliyimana, the former Chief of Staff of the Rwandan gendarmerie, of genocide, extermination and murder as crimes against humanity, and murder as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto, sentencing him to time served. The Trial Chamber convicted François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, former commander of the Reconnaissance Battalion, and Innocent Sagahutu, former commander of a squadron within the Reconnaissance Battalion, of murder as a crime against humanity and as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto. The Trial Chamber sentenced each of them to 20 years of imprisonment. Finally, the Trial Chamber convicted Augustin Bizimungu, the former Chief of Staff of the Rwandan army, of genocide, extermination, murder and rape as crimes against humanity, and murder and rape as serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto, sentencing him to 30 years of imprisonment.

21. On 7 February 2014, the Appeals Chamber severed Bizimungu's case from the *Military II* case, ordering further submissions from the parties. On 11 February 2014, the Appeals Chamber issued its judgement in respect of Ndindiliyimana, Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu. The Appeals Chamber reversed Ndindiliyimana's and Nzuwonemeye's convictions in their entirety. It also partly reversed Sagahutu's convictions, reducing his sentence to 15 years of imprisonment.

22. The Appeals Chamber issued its judgement in respect of Bizimungu on 30 June 2014. The Appeals Chamber affirmed Bizimungu's convictions for genocide; extermination, murder and rape as crimes against humanity; and murder and rape as serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II, while it reversed findings of his responsibility for certain events. The Appeals Chamber affirmed the sentence of 30 years of imprisonment.

Further appeals from judgement

23. Deliberations are now in progress in the *Karemera* and *Ngirumpatse*, *Nizeyimana* and *Nzabonimana* cases, in which the Appeals Chamber heard arguments in February and April 2014. The Appeals Chamber is also seized of appeals in the *Nyiramasuhuko et al. ("Butare")* case, in respect of which the briefing has concluded and the appeals are being prepared for a hearing.

D. Activities of the Office of the Prosecutor

24. Following the completion of all first instance trial proceedings, the focus of the Office of the Prosecutor is on the completion of ongoing appeals, the monitoring of cases referred to national jurisdictions, transitional activities to ensure a smooth and efficient transfer of functions to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism, preparation of materials for archiving and on multiple activities related to the Prosecutor's Closing Report to the Secretary-General, and other essential legacy works initiated over the years.

25. The Office of the Prosecutor's Appeals and Legal Advisory Division litigated 26 appeals in 7 cases during the reporting period. On 16 December 2013, the final judgement in the Grégoire Ndahimana appeal was issued, resulting in the imposition of an additional conviction and term of imprisonment. On 11 February 2014, the Appeals Chamber reversed Ndindiliyimana's and Nzuwonemeye's convictions in their entirety. It also partly reversed Sagahutu's convictions, reducing his sentence to 15 years of imprisonment.

26. Oral argument in the appeals pending in the *Karemera* and *Ngirumpatse*, *Nizeyimana*, and *Nzabonimana* cases took place in February and April 2014 and the final judgements are scheduled to be delivered during the second half of 2014. The Appeals Chamber rendered a judgement in the *Bizimungu* appeal on 30 June 2014, affirming most of his convictions and his 30-year term of imprisonment.

27. In September 2013, one Office of the Prosecutor archival facility, along with records of 27 cases made up of 512 boxes and measuring about 100 linear metres, were formally transferred to the custody of the Mechanism. The records consist of inactive trial and appeals cases as well as administrative documents.

28. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor has transferred a further 596 boxes of material concerning an additional five completed cases and investigation records to the Arusha branch of the Mechanism of the Office of the Prosecutor. The processing of prosecutorial records continues, with the appraisal and security classification of all records of the Office of the Prosecutor. While much has been achieved, there is still much more to be done.

29. In September 2013, the Office of the Prosecutor launched its manual on the tracking and arrest of fugitives from international criminal justice at the eighteenth

annual conference of the International Association of Prosecutors, held in Moscow. In January 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor hosted an international conference in Kampala and released a manual on best practices in the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. Other ongoing legacy initiatives include projects related to recording the course of events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide on the basis of facts established by the judicial process of the Tribunal and challenges regarding the referral of cases to national jurisdictions under rule 11 bis of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

E. Activities of the Registry

1. Office of the Registrar

30. The Office of the Registrar is responsible, inter alia, for providing support to the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor, including providing diplomatic liaison with Member States to meet the requirements of both the defence teams and the Office of the Prosecutor. It is also responsible for the administration of the Tribunal, including human resources and financial management. During the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, the Office of the Registrar provided effective court management and filing services to both organs of the Tribunal as well as the Appeals Chamber. It supported the completion of the *Ndindiliyimana*, *Nzuwonemeye*, *Sagahutu* and *Bizimungu* appeal cases as well as judicial filings involving appeal cases. It also continued to provide administrative support to defence lawyers, including securing cooperation from Member States.

31. During the period under review, the main activities of the Office of the Registrar focused on supporting the conclusion of the remaining appeals, engaging Member States on a variety of issues, providing support to the Mechanism and preparing the records of the Tribunal for archiving and handover to the Mechanism necessary to achieve an orderly closure of the Tribunal.

32. The Office of the Registrar continued to act as the channel of communication between the Tribunal and the diplomatic community. As such, the Office of the Registrar maintained high-level diplomatic contacts with Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. During the reporting period, the Office of the Registrar transmitted more than 100 notes verbales and other correspondence related to the operations of the Tribunal, in particular, to secure support and cooperation from Member States with respect to the remaining appeal cases and the relocation of the acquitted and released persons. The Registry also dealt with a number of inquiries and requests for legal assistance from national jurisdictions.

33. The Office of the Registrar also assisted the Mechanism with its function of monitoring the cases of *Uwinkindi* and *Munyagishari* that were referred to Rwanda for trial, as well as the two cases referred to France.

34. The President and Registrar continue to deploy all efforts to find host countries for the remaining nine acquitted persons and three released convicts. In this regard, the Registrar visited a number of Member States in Africa and Europe and engaged the Government of Rwanda and the African Union with the aim of finding a solution to the problem of relocation. During the period under review, the Tribunal has continued to encounter obstacles in relocating these individuals. There have not yet

been any positive developments pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2029 (2011), 2054 (2012) and 2080 (2012), in which the Council commended Member States that have accepted the relocation to their territories of acquitted persons and released convicts who have completed serving their sentences and reiterated its call upon other Member States that are in a position to do so to cooperate with the Tribunal for that purpose. The President and Registrar have highlighted the urgency of the need for increased cooperation to many Member States, including through discussions with the Security Council Working Group and the group of African Ambassadors to the United Nations, and the President has continued to detail the urgency of the situation in his statements to the Security Council and General Assembly. Considering the imminent closure, the Tribunal remains in urgent need of the assistance of Member States to find a sustainable solution to this issue.

35. The Tribunal welcomed in Arusha a total of 2,850 visitors, including high-level United Nations and government officials, academics, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the general public, during the reporting period. The Office of the Registrar also managed the wide dissemination of information about the Tribunal's activities by means of press meetings, newsletters and press releases as well as the website, films and information brochures in English, French and Kinyarwanda. Through its External Relations Communication and Outreach Unit, the Office distributed more than 10,000 copies of the Tribunal's Cartoon Book, which is part of the Tribunal's youth sensitization project in the five East African countries, namely, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. It also briefed the more than 2,800 visitors, including students, academics, military officers, media practitioners and government and non-government officials as well as members of the public, who visited and toured the Tribunal. Media outreach events and exhibitions were held in Arusha, Kigali, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, Nairobi and Johannesburg, South Africa.

36. At these events, film screenings, talks and discussions on the work of the Tribunal were held. The Unit also processed numerous local and international media enquiries and broadcast via satellite trial proceedings in the cases of *The Prosecutor v. Grégoire Ndahimana*; *The Prosecutor v. Augustin Ndindiliyimana, François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye and Innocent Sagahutu*; and *The Prosecutor v. Augustin Bizimungu*. The Office of the Registrar maintains an open line of communication with universities and other educational institutions in the region. In April 2014, the Office participated in an event held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide in Dar es Salaam, jointly organized by the United Nations Office in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Rwanda High Commission and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The President and Prosecutor attended other such events in Kigali, and an event was organized by the Arusha branch of the Tribunal, at which the President, Prosecutor and Registrar of the Tribunal and the Minister of Justice of Rwanda participated.

37. The Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali and 10 additional provincial information centres located across Rwanda continued to play a key role in promoting outreach activities of the Tribunal through information dissemination, improved communication and access to the jurisprudence and other legal materials of the Tribunal. The centres are visited daily by members of the Rwandan judiciary, students, researchers and the public, who are provided with informative materials and have access to briefings, training, library services, video screenings and the Internet. As part of the preparation for the handover of the

Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre to the Government of Rwanda, the staff of the Centre have trained two librarians from the Government of Rwanda on library management, public information and outreach.

38. Significantly, the Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre continues to receive greater awareness and use by senior government officials, including members of the military, and the police. The Centre was also regularly visited and used by civil society organizations from Rwanda and other countries, including Canada, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland and the United States of America, who are on official study and/or attachment visits in Rwanda. In October 2013, the Centre, within the framework of cooperation with partners of the Tribunal in Rwanda, conducted training in online legal research for legal professionals at the Rwandan Institute of Legal Practice and Development in the Southern province.

39. The Office of the Registrar continued its partnership with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in promoting outreach in Rwanda through the Centre. From February to June 2014, the staff of the Centre conducted genocide awareness workshops in six districts in Rwanda, covering 18 secondary schools, one demobilization and reintegration camp and one institution of higher learning. Approximately 15,000 teachers, students and ex-combatants participated in the programme. The outreach team used the same opportunity to distribute information materials provided by the Tribunal and the Department of Public Information to all participating schools, camps, district local government offices and members of the public. During the reporting period, the Centre in Kigali received approximately 24,000 visitors, while the provincial information centres received approximately 20,000 visitors. On 29 and 30 April 2014, the Tribunal and Mechanism organized two open days at the Centre in Kigali to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. The event was attended by senior officials of the Government of Rwanda, including the Prosecutor General, the Executive Secretary of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, other senior officials and the general public. It was also attended by the Resident Coordinator and the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Rwanda.

40. The Tribunal continues with the preparation of its hard copies, born-digital/electronic and audiovisual records for transfer to and management by the Mechanism. It is collaborating very closely with the Mechanism in that regard, especially to ensure that the records are prepared in a manner that will facilitate their effective management by the Mechanism after transfer. Since the completion of the remaining judicial work of the Tribunal is occurring in phases, a phased transfer of records with long-term to permanent value will be performed until the end of the mandate of the Tribunal. As at 30 June 2014, the ICTR had transferred to the Mechanism 671 linear metres of records with long-term to permanent value. The measures presently being taken to prepare for the disposition of the digital records are an inventory and appraisal of the records in systems across the Tribunal, including shared drives and personal workspaces, and the planning and implementation of the transfer process. The Tribunal is also working to implement an e-capture project, to capture both legacy and current e-mail accounts of staff members who played a significant role in the history of the Tribunal. Redaction of the audiovisual records of the trial proceedings is progressing. The audiovisual redaction process has been streamlined and prioritized to focus on the recordings

most likely to be of interest to external users. The prioritized list will significantly affect the quality and quantity of the final hours of records that will be handed over to the Mechanism by 31 December 2014.

2. Judicial and Legal Affairs Section

41. As part of the ongoing reorganization of the Tribunal, the Judicial and Legal Services Division was abolished as of 31 December 2013. In its place, the Judicial and Legal Affairs Section assumed some of the previous functions of the Division, including providing legal support to the appeals process, the Office of the President and the Registrar and supervising activities related to court management, defence counsel, detainees at the United Nations Detention Facility and acquitted and convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania.

42. In particular, legal officers of the Section assisted the Mechanism by acting as interim monitors of the *Uwinkindi* and *Munyagishari* proceedings in Rwanda. Throughout the reporting period, the monitors submitted regular reports to the Mechanism and the Tribunal on the status of the pre-trial proceedings in both cases. Furthermore, the Section took part in the organization of capacity-building and knowledge-sh. ring sessions for various international, regional and domestic institutions, including the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights, the Rwandan judiciary and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Finally, the Section provided judicial assistance to domestic courts and government institutions, including in Belgium, Canada, France and Germany.

43. During the reporting period, the Section focal point for court management provided support services to the judicial processes of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, including the provision of transcripts of appellate proceedings. It also continued to prepare judicial records for transfer to the Mechanism, which includes the redaction of audiovisual recordings of the Tribunal's proceedings so they may be made available to the public.

44. The Section focal point for defence counsel, detainees and acquitted and convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania provided essential services to relevant persons. This included management of payments to defence counsel and attending to requests from detainees and released persons in the United Republic of Tanzania related to services provided by the Tribunal.

45. During the reporting period, the Section focal point for witness and victims support worked closely with the Mechanism to prepare witness files for handover in relation to 58 completed cases before the Tribunal. In accordance with protective measures ordered by the Chambers, transcripts were redacted to expunge identifying information concerning witnesses or their family members prior to the transcripts being made public.

46. The United Nations Detention Facility, as at 30 June 2014, housed a total inmate population of 13 detained persons. This includes 11 convicted persons awaiting judgements on appeal by the Tribunal, one convicted person awaiting judgement on appeal by the Mechanism and one convicted person awaiting an order for transfer for the enforcement of sentence by the Mechanism.

47. The Language Services Section continued to provide interpretation and translation services in English, French and Kinyarwanda to the Tribunal and Mechanism during proceedings conducted before the Appeals Chamber and the

Mechanism. In this regard, the Section dealt with documents emanating from the Mechanism, the Appeals Chamber and the parties (prosecution and defence). It also provided the same services to the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry and other Tribunal and Mechanism departments. In addition to translation and interpretation, the Section provided reproduction services to all organs of the Tribunal and the Mechanism. During the reporting period, the Section received a number of documents for translation, including five appeal judgements, 12 briefs and many other appeal-related filings from different parties, numerous decisions as well as other judicial documents. The Section also continued to translate trial and appeal judgements and decisions accrued from the translation backlog. With the reduction of court sessions, interpreters have continued to assume a significant proportion of the translation workload, thereby enabling the Section to substantially improve delivery times.

48. The Legal Library and Reference Unit delivered legal information to both internal and external users who need to access the materials of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, including their jurisprudence. During this period, the Unit released a DVD containing the basic documents and case law of the Tribunal for the period 1995-2013. The Unit also maintained the web database to enable a large number of researchers to access the Tribunal's jurisprudence.

49. On 1 January 2014, the Office of the Registrar completed the transfer of the Unit together with its functions to the Mechanism, in line with the decision of the Coordination Council. This will enable the Mechanism to provide the necessary support to the prosecution and defence teams and its judges in case of an arrest and trial or appeal. It will help the Library to preserve its collections and continue to inspire scholars, legal professionals and researchers who need to learn from the work of the International Tribunals, especially the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, well past its closure.

3. Division of Administrative Support Services

50. The Division of Administrative Support Services carries the responsibility of providing a wide range of services, such as budget and finance, medical services, security, travel, human resources, training and counselling services, buildings management and property control. During the reporting period, the Division provided administrative services to the Mechanism in line with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010).

51. The process of downsizing continued to pose major challenges to the operations of the entire Tribunal and the Division has continued to respond to those challenges in a proactive and flexible manner. Staff retention exercises were conducted in order to determine the number and composition of staff to be retained until the completion of the Tribunal's work. As at 30 June 2014, the Tribunal had 283 staff members, against an authorized staffing level of 306 posts. The Tribunal's staff comes from 55 countries and, as at 30 June 2014, the gender ratio of staff was 62 per cent male and 38 per cent female.

52. The Tribunal continued to provide administrative support to the Arusha branch of the Mechanism following its establishment on 1 July 2012, including facilitation of recruitment and provision of administrative services to the Mechanism staff members in the Arusha and Kigali duty stations up to 31 December 2013. These

administrative services were taken over by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia from 1 January 2014.

53. Through the Human Resources and Planning Section, the Tribunal continued to undertake a smooth and objective downsizing process with respect to the large number of staff separating from the Tribunal. Repatriation, relocation and career counselling, in addition to the other staff administration and recruitment activities, made up the majority of the workload of the Section during the reporting period. With more than 50 per cent of the Tribunal's workforce consisting of staff members who have been with the Tribunal since its inception, the looming closure and few options for future jobs has been a source of stress and concern that the Tribunal has to deal with as part of the completion strategy. It should also be noted that the short duration of contracts issued to current staff members continued to contribute to increased uncertainty and to have a negative impact on productivity. In addition, it has proved difficult to attract qualified candidates for short-duration contracts. The current limitations to temporary appointments have the potential to create a negative impact on the timely liquidation of the Tribunal's assets and liabilities, which is also part of the completion strategy.

54. The Career Development and Counselling Unit is implementing a four-pronged strategy to support the completion of the Tribunal's mandate, as follows:

(a) Training programmes to support personal and professional transition of staff, aimed at providing management and staff with skills to meet the challenges of organizational change and downsizing, multi-tasking and double-hatting. They also aim to provide staff with skills to successfully make the transition to another job, self-employment or retirement, as the case may be;

(b) Training programmes to support completion of operations: these are technical training programmes aimed at helping sections complete their operations successfully, either to close down or transfer functions to the Mechanism;

(c) Stress counselling and coaching support during the completion process: this aims to help staff and their families deal with the stress and challenges of the downsizing, and to coach them on issues such as interview preparation, career planning, problem solving and decision-making;

(d) Provision of welfare support to separating and relocating staff and families: this is aimed at providing practical help and information during separation and relocation, and promoting physical fitness and social well-being of Tribunal staff and families during the final period of the Tribunal.

55. The Security and Safety Section continued to support the Tribunal and the Mechanism in ensuring the safety and security of their staff, premises, assets and operations through implementation of United Nations security management system policies, including minimum operating residential security standards and minimum operating security standards. With the ever-increasing levels of insecurity in the East Africa region exacerbated by recent detonations of improvised explosive devices in Arusha, the Section has continued to promote close collaboration with the host Government authorities in monitoring security trends and ensuring appropriate measures are in place to provide adequate notification and implementation of well-rehearsed mitigating measures to staff.

56. The Health Services Unit provided curative, preventive and trauma counselling support and performed medico-administrative duties for staff members and officials of the Tribunal and Mechanism and their dependants. The Unit is also responsible for providing medical services to detainees, witnesses and victims and acquitted persons.

57. The Information Technology Services Section continues its consolidation and optimization process in liquidating Kigali facilities, supporting the Mechanism's information technology infrastructure in Arusha and Kigali and sustaining services required by the Tribunal completion strategy.

58. In the area of resources management, the Budget and Finance Section continued to provide expertise on proper planning, control and monitoring of the utilization of available resources as well as timely and reliable services to staff members and clients of the Tribunal.

59. The General Services Section provided vital support to the Tribunal, which included realignment of office space, preparing administrative documents for archiving, construction of a temporary archives facility, general repairs and maintenance and asset control and management.

60. During the reporting period, the Building Management Services continued to review use of office space in line with the completion strategy, and apart from the staff of the Office of the Prosecutor, all Tribunal staff members have been consolidated into one wing of the Arusha International Conference Centre complex. All courtrooms, apart from the one being retained for the use of the Appeals Chamber and Mechanism, have been dismantled and the space has been reorganized or returned to the landlord.

61. The use of the Galileo Inventory Management System for Asset Management Services is now fully implemented at the Tribunal. The result is improved internal controls on asset management. Disposal of excess assets in line with the completion strategy is ongoing.

62. With the impending closure of the Tribunal, the main function of the Procurement Section has been the disposal of the Tribunal's assets and transferring those that may be utilized by the Mechanism into its custody. During the reporting period, the procurement workload has also increased owing to demands for the procurement, shipping and clearing of items procured for the Mechanism.

63. The Administrative Legal Services Unit has continued to play an important legal advisory role for issues pertaining to the proper implementation and interpretation of United Nations administrative rules, cases relating to the privileges and immunities of staff regarding civil and criminal cases, and disputes related to domestic employees of Tribunal staff members. In addition, the Unit has been assisting the Registrar with appeals related to the downsizing and retention processes, performance evaluations and investigations of allegations and misconduct in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Unit has also been responsible for coordination activities of all other oversight bodies.

III. Conclusion and recommendations

64. The Tribunal has made significant achievements during the past year towards the goals of the completion strategy in the face of a very high workload, and significant

progress was made on the appeals and on the transition to the Mechanism. The reporting period continued to see an ongoing shift in the Tribunal's focus with respect to both judicial and administrative activities. With the completion of trials and the transfer to Rwanda of the second case of an accused in the Tribunal's custody, the focus is now entirely on the transition to the Mechanism and the completion of the appeals in an efficient and timely manner without compromising fair trial rights.

65. State cooperation remains the cornerstone for the ability of the Tribunal to complete its mandate. The Tribunal appreciates the continued trust and support of Member States and has continued to work in close cooperation with Member States to ensure a seamless transfer to the Mechanism of tracking efforts with respect to the remaining fugitives. The Tribunal could benefit, however, from increased cooperation with respect to its efforts to relocate acquitted persons and those convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania.

66. In this respect, the Tribunal reiterates the call for urgent action to help find host countries for the now nine acquitted persons who remain in a safe house in Arusha under the Tribunal's protection and for the three convicted persons in Arusha who have been released after completion of their sentences. The Tribunal remains concerned about the consequences of failing to fulfil its obligation to relocate acquitted persons and those who have completed their sentences. In this respect, the President and Registrar have continued their extensive efforts to find States for relocation and hope that Member States will actively contribute to finding a meaningful solution to this problem.

67. Finally, as the Tribunal continues to separate staff pursuant to the completion strategy, the request for absorption of the Tribunal's staff members into the United Nations system is re-emphasized. The Tribunal would appreciate the usual support given by Member States in addressing its numerous challenges.

68. As the Tribunal continues the post-trial phase, in which its mandate draws ever nearer to completion, it is our intention to continue efforts to ensure that the legacy of the Tribunal is more than just its judicial decisions; the knowledge gained and lessons learned with respect to running an international judicial institution must also be preserved for posterity and shared with the international community for guidance in future endeavours related to international crimes. The Tribunal's efforts regarding capacity-building, training and education, which have now expanded beyond East Africa, will remain strong. The impact of the Tribunal's work will not only challenge impunity, but will also help to improve the means to dispense justice for an entire region and educate the world on why it is important to fight to ensure that there is never again another tragedy like that of the Rwandan genocide.

69. The countdown to the closure of the Tribunal has begun. On 8 November 2014, the Tribunal will mark 20 years since its creation by the Security Council, and at the same time there will be approximately one year left until the projected closure of the Tribunal. As the Tribunal continues to wrap up its work, however, a great deal remains to be done before it can close its doors. In order to achieve what is necessary prior to closure, we the Tribunal again call upon the international community to provide it with the support necessary to achieve completion of its mandate.

United Nations A/68/958–S/2014/547

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2014
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 29 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014):

1. In keeping with its firm position that the humanitarian situation and its implications are the Syrian State's top priority, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has marshalled all its resources to meet the pressing need to provide shelter, food and medicine to all civilians who have been affected by the crimes committed by armed terrorist groups. Since 2011, it has worked to meet the needs of its citizens, in keeping with its constitutional responsibility towards them, and has cooperated with the United Nations and its agencies in the provision and delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the crisis.

2. In that regard, it reaffirms its readiness to continue to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected Syrian citizens, without discrimination. It is also abides by the letter and spirit of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), in accordance with the sequence of steps specified in Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and the understanding reached in the Security Council in that regard and on the basis of respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law, the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and, above all, the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria that was reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014).

14-58628 (E) 060814 070814

Please recycle

3. The guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance stress that the affected country should consent to the provision of humanitarian assistance within its territory. Those principles also stress the primary role of the affected country in the organization, coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance. We therefore expect the United Nations and its agencies, in keeping with their commitment to the aforementioned principles, which include neutrality and impartiality, to implement the Security Council resolutions transparently, without politicization and on the basis that the sole purpose of United Nations assistance operations is to respond to humanitarian needs, instead of attempting to realize particular political agendas and taking part in the violation of Syria's sovereignty and the undermining of the Syrian State, as has been evident in the behaviour of certain senior United Nations officials responsible for humanitarian affairs. In order to achieve that goal, assistance must be delivered and distributed directly to all Syrians in all regions in a fair and non-selective manner. The Syrian Government should be provided, in advance, with clear, transparent and detailed plans that include information on the number of civilian beneficiaries and how assistance will be delivered to areas in which armed terrorist groups, some of which are included in the United Nations lists of terrorist entities, are active. Those plans should also contain the names of implementing partners. Non-governmental organizations should conduct their activities in complete transparency and be forthright regarding the amount of assistance they are providing and their sources of funding. In addition, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need to cooperate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the primary partner for United Nations relief activities in Syrian territory, in the distribution of assistance brought in across the border and to steer clear of dealing with terrorist organizations that are on United Nations counter-terrorism lists or organizations affiliated with them.

4. Ensuring full implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) requires continued cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, represented by its country team in Syria, and the Syrian Government. Over the past few years, such cooperation has resulted in the delivery of assistance to millions of Syrians throughout the country, including hot spots, as has been confirmed by reports issued by United Nations bodies and agencies operating in Syria. The office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria is responsible for overseeing all United Nations activities in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic therefore stresses that the Resident Coordinator must supervise all relief operations, including those involving the importation of assistance across the borders, in coordination with the Syrian Government. Such a course of action would ensure the implementation of the letter and spirit of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and the application of the fundamental principles governing the work of the United Nations in crises.

5. The Syrian Government reiterates its keen concern for the security and safety of aid workers affiliated with the United Nations and its agencies, something that was stressed in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). In that same vein, Syria emphasizes that those workers must respect national laws regarding the presence of foreigners in Syrian territory. Accordingly, in order for any officials of international agencies or their implementing partners to enter the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, they must obtain a valid entry visa from a Syrian embassy or consulate. Otherwise, their presence in Syrian territory shall be considered illegal and subject to the laws in force. It would also constitute a

violation of Syria's sovereignty and, by extension, Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). The Syrian Government stresses that it must be informed sufficiently in advance of the importation of humanitarian assistance into its territory so that it may take the necessary measures to ensure the delivery of such assistance and also to ensure the security and safety of humanitarian agency personnel.

6. The Syrian Government finds it strange that the report addresses the situation in the area of separation of forces, inasmuch as that is a transgression of the mandate established by the relevant Security Council resolutions. The situation in the area of separation is covered by the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has previously conveyed to the Resident Coordinator for United Nations activities in Syria the displeasure of the Syrian Government over the haphazard manner in which senior United Nations officials have arbitrarily included inaccurate and undocumented figures on humanitarian needs in Syria in their statements, reports and assessments. The Government furthermore objects to the reliance by the drafters of the report on information taken from unsubstantiated testimony and reports issued by politicized parties, in particular the reports of the special international commission of inquiry for Syria, which are characterized by politicization and lack of objectivity.

8. Although it continues to approve requests made by United Nations organizations and international organizations to import humanitarian assistance via the official border crossings with Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, the Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the Secretary-General's report overlooks the Turkish Government's refusal to allow the World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to import humanitarian assistance via the Nusaybin crossing on the border with Turkey. This refusal necessitated the shipment of those supplies by aircraft from Damascus airport to Qamishli airport.

9. Whenever possible, the Syrian Government has facilitated the efforts of the United Nations to reach many hard-to-reach areas and hotspots in Rif Dimashq, the eastern and western parts of the Aleppo countryside, Idlib and the Dar'a countryside. In addition, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian assistance to those areas in the period from 23 June 2014 to 22 July 2014:

- With the approval of the Syrian Government, the United Nations, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, delivered humanitarian assistance to Mu'addamiyah, Rif Dimashq governorate, in the period from 14 to 21 July 2014. This assistance consisted of food as well as non-food and medical supplies and vaccines for polio, measles and other diseases. In total, some 6,000 food parcels and 800 sacks of flour were provided, sufficient for approximately 30,000 persons. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent also brought two mobile clinics into Mu'addamiyah in the above-mentioned period. Medical teams treated 1,081 persons, 447 of whom were children. The teams also brought in 1,000 units of polio and measles vaccine, administered vaccines for other diseases and provided the area clinic with 250 ampoules of insulin to treat cases of diabetes. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), also delivered medical assistance to Mu'addamiyah on 28 July 2014. In addition, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, acting on the recommendation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in

Syria, is in the process of establishing a medical unit and a branch office in Mu'addamiyah.

- The delivery by the United Nations of humanitarian assistance to Mu'addamiyah and what the Organization witnessed inside the city confirms that it is not under siege, contrary to the claims made in the Secretariat's reports.

- On 10 July 2014, the Syrian Government reiterated for the third time its official request to the United Nations to deliver humanitarian assistance to Adra al-Ummaliyah and Adra al-Balad, which have been besieged since the beginning of 2013. To date, the United Nations has not responded to those requests.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with the United Nations, also delivered humanitarian assistance to the following areas:

    - Dar'a governorate: 4,000 food and medical parcels were delivered to Yadudah, Tall Shihab and Zayzun

    - Idlib governorate: 18,200 food parcels were delivered to Ariha, Abu al-Duhur, Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, Harim, Quraqanya, Kafr Takharim, Arminaz, Darkush, Sarmin, Kafraya, Ma'arrah and Fu'ah

    - Hama governorate: 2,874 food parcels were delivered to Masyaf, Sahan, Salamiyah, Suqaylibiyah and Hama city

    - Aleppo city: 3,350 food parcels were distributed to eastern and western parts of the city

    - Rif Dimashq governorate: 21,919 food parcels were distributed to Yabrud, Nabk, Tall, Kiswah and Qarah

- On 18 July 2014, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian assistance consisting of 500 food parcels sufficient for 2,500 persons to Qadam and Asbaynah in Rif Dimashq. It also brought in two mobile surgical units.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with WHO, delivered medical and surgical supplies to four hospitals in the eastern and western parts of Aleppo city. The requests of ICRC to deliver medical supplies to Bab and Manbij hospitals in the Aleppo countryside were also approved.

- On 22 July 2014, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed 495 food parcels in Yarmouk camp. Including those parcels, the total number of parcels distributed to camp residents since 30 January 2014 stands at 39,022 food parcels and 3,776 health-care parcels. An ill person was also taken out of the camp, bringing the total number of ill persons evacuated from the camp to 4,451. The competent authorities and UNRWA also provided the Palestine Red Crescent with tuberculosis, measles, tetanus, quadruple, quintuple, paediatric hepatitis and polio vaccines, vaccination syringes and tuberculosis vaccination syringes. In addition, children's medications and medicines to treat heart disease, diabetes and typhoid, along with vitamins and nutritional supplements, were provided to the residents of Yarmouk, in order to alleviate the suffering they are enduring as a result of the blockade imposed on them by armed terrorist gangs.

10. The Syrian Government will continue to cooperate with the United Nations to address any problems in the procedures that regulate the movement of humanitarian convoys as long as international agencies continue to abide by the fundamental principles governing humanitarian work, the most important of which is respect for national sovereignty, in order to facilitate the movement of relief supplies and ensure that they reach their destination as soon as possible. We reiterate that the success of such work depends on cooperation and transparency on the part of the United Nations. The Organization should not be content with constantly criticizing the Government's actions.

11. Contrary to the claims made in the Secretary-General's report that the Syrian armed forces are indiscriminately targeting civilians, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic continues to fulfil its constitutional duty to use every means to protect its citizens from the terrorist crimes that have been committed against them. Syrians have been the victims of terrorist bombings and daily indiscriminate rocket attacks against their homes, workplaces, educational and medical institutions, and religious and historical sites in all governorates. At the same time, the Government continues to strive earnestly to reach a political solution and bring about national reconciliation. This is Syria's national strategy. The success achieved in the old city of Homs is but one example of the fruits of that strategy and was preceded by successes in Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Hama and other governorates. The Syrian Government continues to make serious efforts to restore security and stability to areas that have been affected by terrorism, with a view to finding a political solution and saving the lives of civilians and returning them to their homes.

12. We wish to reiterate that, in order to resolve humanitarian crisis that has developed in many parts of Syria, it is essential to address the roots of the problem and the factors that are exacerbating it. First and foremost, that means countering and eradicating terrorism and rescinding unilateral, punitive economic measures. It is puzzling that United Nations reports do not reflect the fact that terrorism has given rise to humanitarian needs and ignore the negative effects that unilateral coercive measures have had on the livelihoods of Syrian civilians; those are measures that have exacerbated human suffering. Indeed, the reports ignore this link despite the fact that it is acknowledged in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). The lack of attention to this aspect on the part of the Secretariat and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs raises doubts as to the credibility of these reports and those responsible for them. It also impedes, both directly and indirectly, the vital role that the United Nations is expected to play in countering terrorism and those who support, fund and arm terrorists.

(*Signed*) Haydar Ali **Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/68/957–S/2014/548

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2014
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 23 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed in June 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a. i.

14-58517 (E) 060814 070814

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 June 2014	1820	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Yarun at point B43 (1), the Israeli enemy crossed the technical fence without violating the Blue Line, and proceeded to clear brush. Some enemy personnel cocked their weapons and pointed them towards Lebanese Army personnel. At 1926 hours, they departed in the direction of occupied territory.
2 June 2014	1400 1600	The Israeli enemy aimed the cannon of a Merkava tank positioned near the Salhah position in the direction of Lebanese territory.
3 June 2014	2235	From its position at the Zar'it barracks, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army Tarikha and Jabal Balat positions for a period of two minutes.
5 June 2014	2115 2118	From its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards a Lebanese Army position for three successive periods: the first was for one minute, the second was for 45 seconds and the third was for 25 seconds.
	2245 2248	From its naval position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards a Lebanese Army position and a Lebanese Public Security post for three successive periods: the first was for 20 seconds, the second was for 30 seconds and the third was for one minute.
7 June 2014	0930	Approximately 15 Israeli enemy armed forces infantry personnel came out of the Ruwaysat al-Alam post on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba and took up combat positions along the post's berms, towards Lebanese territory. At 1015 hours, they returned to inside the aforementioned post.
8 June 2014	1000 1115	An Israeli enemy patrol consisting of a Hummer vehicle, two Defender vehicles and a Toyota pickup stopped at the technical fence opposite the Udaysah-Kafr Killa Road. Ten personnel disembarked and performed work on the aforementioned technical fence while a member of the hostile patrol pointed his weapon at Lebanese Army personnel located on the opposite side.
11 June 2014	0845	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points BP34 and B77 opposite the town of Markaba, the Israeli enemy began clearing a dirt road. At 0930 hours, the arm of one of their excavators extended across the technical fence and engaged in clearing activities two metres into the area between the technical fence and the Blue Line.
12 June 2014	0830	Opposite the town of Markaba, between points B73 and B76, two excavators, two trucks and a steamroller appeared belonging to the Israeli enemy engaged in clearing activities between the technical fence and the Blue Line. The arm of one of the excavators extended across the technical fence. At 1810 hours, the Israeli enemy finished its work.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	2114	From its position at the Zar'it barracks, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army Jabal Balat and Tarikha positions for a period of three minutes.
15 June 2004	0930	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points B75 and B76 (1) opposite the towns of Markaba and Hula, the Israeli enemy began brush-clearing activities along the technical fence. At 1030 hours, the arm of one of its excavators extended across the technical fence and engaged in the clearing activities beyond it, without violating the Blue Line.
	1030	Inside Shab'a Farms, near its position at Ruwaysat al-Alam, the Israeli enemy detained approximately 110 goats belonging to an individual named Isma'il Nasir.
	1430	On the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of nine personnel crossed 200 metres over the line of withdrawal and detained approximately 500 goats belonging to Muhammad Hashim. They returned the herd at 1530 hours.
17 June 2014	0530 0800	The sound of explosions was heard inside the occupied Shab'a Farms.
18 June 2014	0900	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, four bulldozers and two excavators arrived from the Sheikh Abbad position and proceeded to clean up and clear brush from the road along the technical fence between points BP33 and B68. The arm of one of the excavators extended across the aforementioned fence without violating the Blue Line. The work was completed at 1620 hours and the vehicles headed towards occupied territory.
19 June 2014	0600	Inside occupied Palestinian territory, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of a personnel carrier and two Command Cars stopped opposite the Wazzani resort at point OP8. Twenty personnel disembarked, opened the gate, crossed the technical fence and walked along the bank of the Wazzani River towards the Wazzani pump that supplies the town of Ghajar, without violating the Blue Line. At 0915 hours, the personnel left from the location of the aforementioned pump and headed towards occupied territory.
	0810	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy used a ditch-digging bulldozer to clear brush between the technical fence and the Blue Line between points B17 and B20, opposite the town of Duhayrah. The work was completed at 1610 hours.
	0815	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points B66 and B69 (1) opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal, the Israeli enemy used two tracked bulldozers, three excavators, one equipped with jackhammer, and two steamrollers to inspect the dirt road adjacent to the technical fence. The arm of the jackhammer-equipped vehicle extended across the technical fence several times between points B68 (2) and B69. The arm of that same vehicle crossed technical fence opposite point B69 between 0900 and 0905 hours. The work was completed at 1650 hours without violating the Blue Line.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1500	In the Saddanah area on the outskirts of the town of Habbariyah, near observation point OP4 manned by the Indian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, an Israeli enemy patrol crossed 100 metres over the line of withdrawal and abducted the shepherd Muhammad Da'bus (Syrian). The patrol released him at 1700 hours.
	1500	In the Zarqa' area on the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, Israeli enemy forces fired on two shepherds, Muhammad Hashim and the Syrian Muhammad Hammadah, and attempted to abduct them while they were herding their flocks inside Lebanese territory.
22 June 2014	2030 2130	The Israeli enemy fired seven flares over the Ruwaysat al-'Alam and Birkat al-Naqqar posts in the occupied Shab'a Farms.
23 June 2014	0800	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy engaged in brush-clearing activities between the technical fence and the Blue Line from point B20-2 to point BP8-1, opposite the town of Yarun. The arm of an excavator extended across the technical fence without violating the Blue Line. The work was completed at 1630 hours.
25 June 2014	0305	The Israeli enemy fired two flares that landed in the outskirts of the town of Kafr Killa, near point B92 inside Lebanese territory at a distance of some 50 to 100 metres from the Blue Line.
	1950	An Israeli enemy patrol consisting of one Hummer Jeep stopped inside occupied Palestinian territory near the South Duhayrah position. Three personnel disembarked and directed curses and vulgar language over loudspeakers at Lebanese Army personnel at the Duhayrah position.
26 June 2014	0655 0740	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal at point B65, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of 12 personnel accompanied by a dog crossed the technical fence without violating the Blue Line and searched the area under the protection of two Merkava tanks from the Dahr al-'Asi post.
	0730	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy used construction machinery to clear brush between the Blue Line and the technical fence from point B22 to point B23, opposite the town of Basatin. The work ended at 1630 hours.
28 June 2014	1320	On the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, near the Birkat al-Naqqar location, an Israeli enemy soldier threw a stun hand grenade while the shepherd Mahir Hamdan was located between the technical fence and the line of withdrawal. The shepherd was not injured.
30 June 2014	2247	Inside occupied Palestinian territory, hostile personnel in a Humvee vehicle at the Zar'it barracks directed a searchlight for one minute towards Lebanese territory, along the length of the road stretching from Ramiya to Tarbikha.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 June 2014	0910	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre and Nabatiyah before leaving at 1815 hours over Rumaysh.
	0955	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over areas of the western Bekaa before leaving at 1040 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1005	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Shikka. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1050 hours over Aytarun.
	1015	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over areas of the western Bekaa before leaving at 1100 hours over Kafr Killa.
4 June 2014	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1930 hours over Rumaysh.
7 June 2014	0525	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1415 hours over Naqurah.
8 June 2014	0645	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1545 hours over Naqurah.
9 June 2014	1040	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Shikka. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1105 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1555	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2315 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
10 June 2014	0535	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1205 hours over Kafr Killa.
	0610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre before leaving at 1000 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0805	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Sidon, Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0920	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1110 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
13 June 2014	0615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1155 hours over Kafr Killa.
15 June 2014	1005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek, before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
16 June 2014	0935	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Batrun and Kurah before leaving at 1640 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0940	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1120 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
17 June 2014	2300	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 2315 hours over Naqurah.
18 June 2014	1120	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. It circled over Hasbayya, Rashayya, Marj Uyun, Bint Jubayl, Rumaysh and Iqlim al-Kharub before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.
19 June 2014	1130	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Zahlah and the western Bekaa before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.
20 June 2014	1525	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over Shab'a before leaving at 1540 hours.
22 June 2014	2355	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over the South before leaving on 23 June 2014 at 0130 hours over Naqurah.
24 June 2014	1110	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Hasbayya, Jazzin, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun, Tyre and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
25 June 2014	1020	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over the South before leaving at 1120 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Batrun and Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1850	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2245 hours over Rumaysh.
26 June 2014	1015	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1125 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	1025	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1550 hours over Kafr Killa.
27 June 2014	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 1445 hours over Rumaysh.
29 June 2014	1010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma a'-Sha'b. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, the Shuf, Jubayl and Tripoli before leaving at 1650 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1635	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Jazzin, Nabatiyah and Marj Uyun before leaving at 2250 hours over Aytarun.
30 June 2014	0900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1330 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1115	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1235 hours over the sea off Naqurah.

United Nations S/2014/549

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 25 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/496), I have the honour to state the following:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its full sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf and underlines that the decisions and measures undertaken in those islands by Iranian officials have always been conducted on the basis of the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the content of the aforementioned letter is deemed as interference in the internal affairs of Iran, which categorically rejects its provisions.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued a policy of friendship and good-neighbourliness with all neighbouring countries and in this context once again expresses its readiness to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates, with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and removing any misunderstanding that may exist between the two countries. Meanwhile it is obvious that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over said islands is not negotiable.

I would also like to stress that "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, and has been used from the dawn of history. As the institutional memory of all renowned cartographic agencies testifies, this sea area has always been identified as the Persian Gulf. In this context, the policy of the United Nations and its practice of emphasizing the use of the correct name, "Persian Gulf", as the only geographical designation applicable to this body of water are noteworthy and should therefore be respected by all. Accordingly, any use of fabricated names for this body of water, including the name used in the above-mentioned letter, is not acceptable and must be stopped.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) G. Hossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

14-58529 (E) 310714

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/550

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Burundi

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2137 (2014), in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) until 31 December 2014, and requested me to inform it of progress on the benchmarks, the implementation of the mandate of BNUB and the resolution, and the conditions that affect such implementation, as well as on the transition of BNUB to the United Nations country team. The report provides an update since my report of 20 January 2014 (S/2014/36), and is structured around the benchmarks.

II. Progress in peace consolidation

A. Democratic process

2. Since the last report, the political situation in Burundi has remained tense amid sharp divergences over key sociopolitical issues affecting the country. Yet, dialogue between the Government and opposition political parties, though fragile, also led to some progress in establishing a legal and political framework for the conduct of the 2015 general elections.

3. In early 2014, the political situation in Burundi sharply deteriorated following a growing rift within the governing coalition between the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) and the Union pour le Progrès national (UPRONA). Tensions between UPRONA and CNDD-FDD intensified amid the resistance of UPRONA to support constitutional amendments proposed by the latter which would have altered the country's ethnic power-sharing balance and allowed President Nkurunziza to run for another term. On 29 January, the Minister of the Interior removed Charles Nditije from the presidency of UPRONA. The action by the Minister came after a Supreme Court decision on 27 January on the outcome of UPRONA party congress in 2012 made it possible for the Minister to enforce an earlier Supreme Court ruling of that year that invalidated the election of Mr. Nditije at the congress. On 31 January, Bernard Busokoza, First Vice-President and a member of the UPRONA party, annulled the decision of the Minister of the Interior arguing that it interfered in the internal affairs of a political party and violated the Constitution and the Law on Political

Please recycle

Parties. A day later, President Nkurunziza dismissed Mr. Busokoza as First Vice-President of the Republic, declaring that he had failed to distinguish between his party and State responsibilities, and had undermined the Government by calling for a withdrawal of the CNDD-FDD-sponsored draft constitution from the National Assembly. Subsequently, three UPRONA ministers resigned from Government on 4 and 5 February, following a call by Mr. Nditije on them to step down in solidarity with the party.

4. These developments exacerbated long-running divisions within UPRONA, pitting those in the leadership willing to continue the Government coalition against those who opposed CNDD-FDD views on the constitutional review and who claimed to be the legitimate representatives of the party. On 11 February, the Ministry of the Interior recognized Concilie Nibigira as the new President of UPRONA. In her new capacity as President of UPRONA, Ms. Nibigira nominated Prosper Bazombanza, whom President Nkurunziza had appointed as the new First Vice-President on 14 February. The move was followed by the appointment on 18 February of three ministers of the UPRONA wing recognized by the Ministry of the Interior, which further exacerbated divisions within UPRONA and between the former UPRONA leadership and CNDD-FDD. On 30 June, Ms. Nibigira addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior, indicating that Mr. Nditije had been expelled from UPRONA. Outlawed, the former UPRONA leadership is now prevented from holding meetings and other activities.

5. On 8 March, police used tear gas to disperse members of the opposition Mouvement pour la solidarité et le développement (MSD) who were planning to hold a rally in Bujumbura. Some demonstrators fled and found refuge at the MSD headquarters. The demonstrators detained and disarmed two police officers who had entered the premises without a judicial warrant in pursuit of the demonstrators. After negotiations between MSD and the police to secure the release of the police officers failed, the latter stormed the MSD headquarters, using tear gas and live ammunition. A total of 13 people were injured and over 80 were arrested. On 21 March, the Bujumbura Mairie High Court sentenced 21 MSD members to life in prison. Another 27 members, including three minors, were given prison terms between 3 and 10 years, while 22 were acquitted. BNUB noted several violations of the right to due process during the trial, including violations of the right to have counsel, the presumption of innocence and the right to have sufficient time to prepare one's defence. Meanwhile, on 12 March, the Public Prosecutor issued an arrest warrant against MSD President Alexis Sinduhije for insurrection and rebellion. He went into hiding and has since been living in Europe.

6. On 21 March, the National Assembly failed to adopt by one vote the draft law amending the Constitution. While CNDD-FDD presented the constitutional revision as an attempt to delete provisions that it considered to have become obsolete, opposition parties noted that the draft would have removed provisions that may constitute an obstacle to a candidacy of President Nkurunziza in the 2015 presidential elections. It would have also removed all references to the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi. In keeping with the legislative procedures, the Speaker of the National Assembly indicated that the draft law would be sent back to the Government, which could resubmit a new text in one year. That left the Government the option of organizing a popular referendum on the constitutional amendments if it wished to amend the Constitution in advance of the elections in 2015. On 8 April, the deputy spokesperson of President Nkurunziza

announced that there would be no referendum on the proposed constitutional amendments and that the 2005 Constitution would remain the basis of the 2015 elections.

7. Allegations that arms and training had been provided to the youth wing of CNDD-FDD, which came to light through the publication on the Internet on 10 April of a leaked confidential BNUB code cable, stirred public debate in Burundi. A CNDD-FDD statement issued on 10 April called the allegations rumours and lies. The Government, the National Assembly, the Senate, the Office of the Ombudsman and all political parties close to CNDD-FDD rejected the allegations. At the same time, calls by opposition parties, civil society organizations, the National Commission on Human Rights and many members of the Security Council to establish an independent commission of inquiry were dismissed by the Government. I personally raised my concerns about these allegations with President Nkurunziza, regional leaders and members of the international community.

8. The leak of the BNUB cable also led to a deterioration of relations between BNUB and the Government. On 17 April, the Government declared the BNUB Security Adviser who was mentioned in the cable persona non grata for attempting to "destabilize" Burundi. About seven weeks later, another BNUB staff member, a close protection officer, had to leave the country when the Government requested BNUB to expel him. The staff member had inadvertently left ammunition in his luggage on 25 May, while preparing to board a plane at Bujumbura International Airport and handed over the ammunition to the civil aviation authorities. BNUB protested in both cases, as the actions taken by the Government were in violation of the status-of-mission agreement between the United Nations and the Government.

9. Following the allegations of weapons distribution to the youth wing of CNDD-FDD, the Security Council met on 8 April and expressed its concern about political tensions in Burundi, including reported acts of intimidation, harassment and violence committed by youth groups in the country. It further stressed the urgent need for the Government of Burundi to address impunity and for all political parties to publicly condemn all political violence and acts of incitement to hatred or violence, in line with the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha peace agreement.

10. On 25 and 27 April, the National Assembly and the Senate, respectively, unanimously adopted the new Electoral Code that will govern the organization of the 2015 elections. Most of the recommendations made during the workshop on the Electoral Code, held from 22 to 24 May 2013 in Kayanza, were incorporated into the Code. The controversial requirement for presidential candidates to have a university degree was removed from the Code, which was promulgated on 3 June by President Nkurunziza. In a related positive development, on 20 May, BNUB and the Government jointly organized a second evaluation workshop of the electoral road map adopted by consensus by political parties and actors in March 2013. All political parties and actors, including those not recognized by the Government, members of the Independent National Electoral Commission, former Heads of State, civil society organizations and the media participated. The main outcome of the workshop was the adoption of a set of general principles that would serve as the code of conduct for political parties, actors and independent candidates before, during and after the 2015 elections. The General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections were signed by the Government, the Independent National Electoral Commission, political parties and actors and the United Nations on 9 June.

11. Key opposition leaders continue to face criminal charges and their movements remain restricted. The current Vice-President of Sahwanya-Front pour la démocratie du Burundi (Sahwanya-FRODEBU), Frédéric Bamvuginyumvira, was detained on corruption charges on 6 November before being released on bail on 20 March, while the movements of Agathon Rwasa, the former leader of the Forces nationales de libération (FNL), are reportedly closely monitored. The Alliance démocratique pour le changement-Ikibiri (ADC-Ikibiri) and Sahwanya-FRODEBU President, Léonce Ngendakumana, was summoned three times before the Assistant Public Prosecutor on 17, 22 and 25 April for interrogation, following a letter he addressed to me on behalf of the coalition, in which he noted the likelihood of a humanitarian catastrophe in Burundi and called on the international community to prevent "political genocide" in the country.

12. In an attempt to reduce violence by politically active youth, the Ombudsman convened a United Nations-sponsored workshop on 27 and 28 May for representatives of youth leagues affiliated with political parties to discuss their role in peace consolidation and tolerance in political diversity. More than 200 youth participated in the forum, leading to the adoption of a series of recommendations on the promotion of a spirit of tolerance, mutual respect for political diversity and avoiding violence as a means of resolving conflict. However, youth affiliated with ADC-Ikibiri rejected the recommendations on the grounds that they did not reflect the discussions during the forum.

13. On 18 July, the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission announced the electoral calendar as follows: elections of the communal councillors and members of the National Assembly on 26 May 2015; presidential elections on 26 June 2015, with, if necessary, a second round on 27 July; senatorial elections on 17 July; and elections of councillors at the *Colline* and *Quartier* level on 24 August 2015. Presidential aspirants will be able to submit their candidacies between 30 April and 9 May 2015, while the electoral campaign will take place from 10 to 23 June 2015.

B. Security and stability

14. The security situation across the country remained stable. Since January, 11 armed clashes have occurred in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces and in the Rukoko forest on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly between the armed forces of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on one side, and a faction of FNL led by Aloys Nzabampema, on the other hand. A total of five Force de défense nationale (FDN) soldiers and six FNL combatants were reportedly killed, while six FDN soldiers and three FNL combatants and two civilians were injured during the clashes.

15. Following the leak of the BNUB cable on the alleged distribution of arms to the Imbonerakure in April, several media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Association burundaise pour la protection des droits humains et des personnes détenues (APRODH), alleged that members of the Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, were being trained near Ondes-Kiliba in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government rejected the allegations, and investigations conducted by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) found

no evidence of the presence of the Imboneri kure or of any paramilitary training by Burundian elements in the area.

16. On 24 April, the National Assembly adopted the revised organic law on the Burundian National Police to eliminate an overlap of roles and responsibilities between the Ministry of Public Security and the Directorate General of the Police. The new law also replaces the regional police officers with provincial and municipal police offices to ease the overall administrative burden of the police.

17. The weapons collection programme of the second disarmament campaign was completed in February, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A total of 52 rifles, 504 grenades and 825 cartridges were collected during the campaign, which began on 11 November 2013. Yet, the impact of the campaign in reducing armed violence and curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Burundi was limited. For instance, 62 hand grenade attacks were reported during the reporting period throughout Burundi, according to the Commission nationale permanente de lute contre la prolifération des armes légères et de petits calibres.

18. BNUB continued to provide technical support to the permanent secretariat of the National Security Council in the implementation of the national security strategy, which was adopted in 2013. As part of the strategy, BNUB funded a sensitization workshop on 6 May 2014 for senior government officials from the Ministries of Defence, Public Security and the Interior and advisers to governors in the 17 provinces. The workshop focused on the roles of the participants in the national security strategy framework, especially in the recently established mixed security committees, which bring together local members of State, security and justice institutions with civil society, religious organizations and the media to help address the 114 political, economic, social and environmental threats identified in the national security strategy. In addition, BNUB also contributed to the National Review of Security Sector Reform in Burundi, which was conducted by the International Security Sector Advisory Team and led to a report recommending improvements to Burundi's national security architecture.

19. BNUB continued to advocate for increased respect for human rights in and by the defence and security forces. In this regard, it organized a human rights sensitization conference for army officers on 27 March with the Ministry of Defence, followed from 3 to 5 June by a training of trainers course for 50 human rights officers from the defence and security forces, which was organized with the National Human Rights Commission.

C. Transitional justice

20. On 15 May, President Nkurunziza promulgated the law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was adopted by the National Assembly on 17 April. UPRONA and FRODEBU-Nyakuri boycotted the vote on the grounds that the mode of selection of the members and bureau of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not likely to guarantee its independence. They also raised concerns about the absence of a reference to a judicial mechanism in the law. The President of the opposition coalition ADC-Ikibiri expressed regret over the adoption of the law and called for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after the 2015 elections. The Commission will cover the period from Burundi's

independence in 1962 until 2008, when the last armed group joined the peace process. It will be composed of only Burundian Commissioners serving four-year terms, renewable once. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) advised the Government that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission law includes provisions that are not in line with international standards and noted the lack of inclusiveness of the process that led to the adoption of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission law.

21. Several civil society organizations, including some of those active in the Reflection Group on Transitional Justice, regretted that President Nkurunziza did not request the National Assembly to resubmit a draft bill that includes all of the recommendations of the 2009 national consultations and recommendations from civil society organizations. On 23 June 2014, civil society members of the Group released a memorandum urging the Speaker of the National Assembly to ensure inclusivity of the transitional justice process and the transparent selection of members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

D. Governance and institution-building

22. There was renewed tension over the handling of contested lands by the National Land Commission, notably in Bururi and Makamba provinces. Arrest warrants were issued on 21 March against seven residents in Bururi province who were accused of rebellion for obstructing the work of the Commission. Two residents were arrested by the police, while the other five went into hiding. Meanwhile, the law establishing the special court for land and other properties was adopted by the National Assembly and Senate on 17 and 28 April, respectively. The UPRONA and FRODEBU-Nyakuri parliamentarians boycotted the session and decried the law as unconstitutional. A number of civil society organizations, notably the Observatoire de l'Action Gouvernementale, expressed concern that the establishment of the court may serve electoral purposes and could further divide Burundian society along ethnic lines.

23. The pace of implementation of the national strategy on good governance and the fight against corruption has remained slow and efforts to revise the legal framework to fight corruption have stalled. Civil society organizations regularly lament existing levels of corruption and accuse the Government of being unwilling to fight the scourge. Several civil society organizations, including the Observatoire de la lutte contre la corruption et les malversations econimiques called upon the Government to take the necessary measures to speed up the process of the anti-corruption legal framework.

24. BNUB continued to support the strengthening of oversight institutions, notably the Anti-corruption Brigade and NGOs active in the fight against corruption. From January to May, the Anti-corruption Brigade received 250 complaints, of which 103 were submitted to the Parquet général of the Anti-corruption Court for appropriate action. In carrying out its mandate, the Court recovered 242 million Burundian francs during the period under review. In April and May, 45 officers of the Anti-corruption Brigade were trained in financial investigations and on the legal framework of the fight against corruption.

E. Rule of law

25. In a sign of improved transparency in judicial recruitments, the first competitive examination for the selection of aspiring magistrates took place in June with the support of bilateral partners. Selected candidates will start a two-year initial training period before being appointed as magistrates. It is the first time that magistrates will be selected according to a transparent process based on objective criteria.

26. In another sign of progress, a sectoral review meeting was held from 17 to 19 March in Gitega to assess the implementation of the strategic plan of the Ministry of Justice for the period 2011-2015. The meeting brought together 84 representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Public Security, judicial and correction institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. Participants recommended adopting new indicators for the strategic plan on reforming the status of magistrates and the High Council of Magistrates in line with international standards. The document of the sectoral review was approved by the Justice and Rule of Law Sectoral Group, which is composed of representatives of judicial institutions, development partners and civil society organizations, and will be transmitted to the Minister of Justice before its circulation. The commission in charge of drafting the bill reforming the status of magistrates met from 26 to 28 May to finalize the text.

27. Meanwhile, the follow-up committee to the National Conference on Justice, established by the Minister of Justice to evaluate the general state of the justice system in Burundi, did not meet, and it does not include representatives of civil society organizations, bar associations and magistrates' trade unions, as required by its terms of reference. The Minister of Justice has yet to engage in a dialogue with the syndicate of magistrates (SYMABU), after the former refused to recognize the validity of the election of the new executive committee last February.

28. Several cases during the reporting period reignited public concerns over the independence of the judiciary, as indicated in paragraph 4 above. On 16 May, the President of APRODH was arrested and later placed on pretrial detention for having declared on radio that some young Burundians were being trained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and presented a forged photo to back up the assertions. He is accused of endangering internal and external State security and may face a sentence of up to eight years of imprisonment, if convicted.

29. During the period under review, BNUB and UNDP continued to support the Ministry of Justice in the areas of integrity, judicial independence and accountability. BNUB supported the Ministry of Justice in drawing up its strategic plan on strengthening accountability and integrity in the justice sector. BNUB also played an active role in the anti-corruption committee that was established by the Minister of Justice and that developed a draft plan aimed at preventing and fighting corruption in the justice sector. The plan was submitted to representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Good Governance, judicial institutions, development partners, an independent human rights commission, the Office of the Ombudsman and civil society organizations in May 2014. Finally, BNUB, in collaboration with UNDP, developed and distributed 1,000 copies of user guides for court litigants to representatives of the Ministry of Justice, courts, prosecutor's offices, bar associations and civil society organizations. Aimed at improving transparency in the

justice sector and in the fight against corruption, the guide provides information on judicial services and on relevant formalities and requirements to access these services.

30. In an effort to strengthen the concept of *justice de proximité* in Burundi, UNDP helped the Government of Burundi launch a project on legal aid services for vulnerable people, and installed 12 legal aid offices run by four civil society organizations in four northern pilot provinces (Ngozi, Muyinga, Kirundo and Kayanza). UNDP and development partners supported the Ministry of Justice in identifying and preparing the establishment of a national legal aid system.

F. Human rights

31. A major area of concern regarding human rights in Burundi is the steadily increasing number of violations and incidents affecting the exercise of public freedoms, notably the rights of peaceful assembly and association, opinion and expression. In this regard, as at 24 June, BNUB had documented and informed relevant government officials of 49 politically motivated incidents involving the Imbonerakure, compared to 18 incidents during the same period last year. These incidents included: (1) the prohibition or disruption of meetings planned by opposition parties; (2) physical assault of members of opposition parties; (3) the destruction of flags and other symbols of opposition parties; (4) threats and intimidation against people accused of refusing to join the ruling party or against known members of the youth wings of opposition parties; and (5) the extortion and ill-treatment of peaceful citizens, typically during night patrols of Imbonerakure members.

32. Since the beginning of the year, freedom of expression and freedom of the press have faced growing restrictions, including pressures and threats against media and journalists from the Burundian authorities and the Imbonerakure. On 15 March 2014, Burundi's National Security Council issued a statement threatening closure of the private radio station Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), following its coverage of the 8 March clash between MSD and the police, and calling on the National Communication Council to take appropriate measures against media responsible for broadcasting messages capable of inciting the population to revolt. Following the leaked BNUB cable, several journalists have been questioned by judicial authorities in connection with reports they have made about the alleged distribution of weapons in different parts of the country. On 8 May 2014, a member of the Rwasa-wing of FNL was arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, and was reportedly beaten by several police officers for having stated on a local radio station that young people affiliated with the ruling party were receiving military training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 9 May, two journalists from Radio France International (RFI) and RPA were detained for over four hours in Marangara, Ngozi province, by a local CNDD-FDD official, accompanied by a group of Imbonerakure, while reporting on the political situation in the province. The Burundian Journalists Union and the Eastern African Journalists Association denounced growing pressure placed on journalists to reveal their sources and the overall efforts made by the authorities to curtail freedom of the press in Burundi.

33. One notable case of a restriction of the freedom of assembly and movement occurred on 16 March, when the mayor of Bujumbura, in the aftermath of the

clashes between MSD and the police on 8 March, declared illegal any sporting activities involving more than one person on roads, limiting such activities to nine authorized venues. Any sporting organization intending to conduct activities in Bujumbura must seek permission from the local administration. However, the law was not always strictly applied.

34. The number of extrajudicial killings documented by BNUB during the reporting period drastically decreased to three cases, compared to 19 cases during the same period in 2013. However, while none of the killings last year were politically motivated, two of the cases in 2014 had political connections.

35. Impunity continued to be a source of concern as the Burundian authorities are yet to take significant steps to ensure that all those responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice through the use of credible, impartial and transparent investigations and regardless of their political affiliation. In most cases involving members of the Imbonerakure, the intervention of an administrative official put an end to judicial follow-up. Since January 2013, BNUB has documented only two cases in which the Imbonerakure were tried in a court of law and convicted. In addition, 27 of the 39 cases of extrajudicial killings that BNUB documented in 2013 were investigated by the judicial authorities, with only five resulting in convictions. However, investigations into the three killings this year led to arrests and one conviction to date. Finally, only 5 of the 35 cases of torture and ill-treatment documented in the first semester of 2014 are currently under investigation.

36. BNUB continued to support the development of a legal framework for the protection of human rights defenders. Following the establishment of a platform of human rights defenders and States' representatives by the Independent National Human Rights Commission in November 2013, a draft law on the protection of human rights defenders was consolidated in March 2014 and is due to be presented to national stakeholders later this year.

G. Social and economic development

37. Burundi's economy is improving after a series of negative shocks over the last few years that adversely affected socioeconomic activities. Economic growth reached 4.5 per cent in 2013 and is projected to reach close to 4.8 per cent for 2014, driven by the agriculture and construction sectors and the implementation of major infrastructure projects, including fibre optics, hydropower and roads. However, revenue shortfalls and the decline in budget support from 5 per cent of GDP in 2010 to a projected 2 per cent of GDP in 2014, which in part reflects austerity conditions in traditional donor countries and more stringent governance-based conditionality, limited the ability of the Government to maintain public spending levels. To address this situation, UNDP and development partners encouraged authorities to preserve pro-poor spending, expedite structural reforms and strengthen the country's fiscal position.

38. As at 31 May, 2,104 new asylum seekers had arrived in Burundi from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to assist about 50,000 Congolese refugees, most of whom reside in four camps in Ruyigi, Cankuzo, Muyinga and

Ngozi provinces and in Bujumbura. Some 130 Congolese refugees were resettled in other countries as part of a burden-sharing arrangement.

39. Some 79,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently live in Burundi. During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to support the Ministry of National Solidarity to register IDPs at 19 sites across seven provinces in the country, with a view to resolving long-term displacement, and increasing national capacity for sustainable reintegration of IDPs.

40. Since January 2014, IOM has registered 5,160 Burundian irregular migrants who were expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania. Burundi received the largest number of expelled migrants and has been the least prepared for the influx. About 496 of the 1,582 persons who were identified as having no reference in Burundi remained in transit centres for over seven months.

III. Cross-cutting issues

A. Gender

41. As elections approach, the need to increase women's political participation in decision-making positions became more prominent. Following a training on gender mainstreaming in November 2013, 20 political parties designed gender-sensitive action plans to include women's concerns in the agendas of decision-making bodies and of their parties, and to improve women's participation in both entities. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) continued to support political parties in the implementation of the action plans. Moreover, provisions on women's participation were included in the new Electoral Code following recommendations submitted by women's organizations during the Electoral Code workshop held in Kayanza in May 2013.

42. Sexual and gender-based violence remained one of the prevailing human rights violations jeopardizing the safety and dignity of women in Burundi. Women and girls are daily victims of rape, sexual violence, forced prostitution and domestic violence, with most victims not reporting abuses to the police or the courts. In March 2014, UN-Women, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund and OHCHR signed a joint programme to strengthen the efficiency and the performance of institutions and communities in preventing and ending impunity for violence against women and girls and providing assistance to survivors.

B. Child protection

43. To support the process of setting up a solid juvenile justice system, the Ministry of Justice, through the Professional Training Centre for the Judiciary, trained 60 magistrates of the Minors, Child Rights and Juvenile Justice Section in May 2014, based on the training tools developed in cooperation with the International Bureau on Child Rights.

44. Since January, 2,400 children expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania have returned to Burundi. To support their sustainable reintegration, efforts have been made to strengthen community child protection mechanisms in the areas of major return, namely, Karuzi, Rutana, Ruyigi and Makamba. As a result, an

additional 337 child protection committees have been set up and more than 2,400 people at the community level have been empowered to identify local solutions to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, and to strengthen the socioeconomic situation of vulnerable families.

C. Activities related to the Peacebuilding Commission

45. On 19 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding approved a third peacebuilding priority plan for Burundi, providing $11.65 million to fund projects in four areas: national dialogue and social cohesion; youth participation; human rights; and land disputes. The Government, civil society organizations and international partners identified these areas of intervention as in need of additional support to further consolidate peace in Burundi. The Joint Steering Committee, which manages and oversees the implementation of the peacebuilding priority plan and is co-chaired by the Government and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Burundi, held its first meeting on 27 May.

46. The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Paul Seger of Switzerland, continued to work with my Special Representative on engaging the Government and key partners to strengthen support for peacebuilding and to consolidate peace in Burundi ahead of the 2015 elections. In New York, the Chair organized several meetings of the Burundi configuration, including a luncheon on 23 April, which was attended by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil, and which discussed the concerns of the international community about shrinking political space ahead of the 2015 elections.

47. As part of his engagement, the Chair of the Burundi configuration also visited Burundi from 13 to 17 January 2014 to assess developments in the country. During a trip to Paris, Brussels, Bujumbura, Kigali and Arusha from 21 to 31 May, the Chair proposed the organization of a round-table discussion as a follow-up to the 2012 Geneva Partners Conference, with the aim of assessing progress against mutual commitments and reinvigorating the relationship between Burundi and its international partners.

IV. Transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi

48. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2137 (2014), a Joint Transition Plan was developed under the strategic leadership of the Transition Steering Group, which is co-chaired by BNUB and the Government of Burundi, and was submitted to the Security Council on 14 May. The Transition Steering Group is composed of the Governments of Burundi, Belgium, China, France, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, representatives of BNUB, the African Union, the European Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

49. The Joint Transition Plan is organized around priority areas covered by the benchmarks, maps the support of the international community to Burundi and

identifies possible gaps resulting from the closing of BNUB. It seeks to enable BNUB to gradually scale down its activities, and the United Nations country team and other partners to increase their capacities in priority areas, while BNUB continues to implement its mandate as requested by the Security Council and work with its partners in Burundi to ensure continued progress towards the benchmarks.

50. The largest capacity gap resulting from the departure of BNUB is likely to emerge in the area of democratic process, governance and institution-building, especially regarding the facilitation of political dialogue and high-level advocacy. While support to governance and institution-building will continue to be provided by UNDP and other members of the United Nations country team, political dialogue and high-level political facilitation will most likely be facilitated through a combination of actors, including relevant United Nations regional political offices and, to a lesser extent the United Nations country team, through the project "National dialogue and social cohesion" of the third peacebuilding priority plan. These efforts will be made in close coordination with relevant partners and regional actors such as the African Union, the European Union, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

51. In the area of human rights and transitional justice, relevant activities are expected to continue after the departure of BNUB, subject to continued financial support for the work of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. OHCHR is exploring the possibility of continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights, increase the capacities of human rights institutions and provide advice, administrative and logistic support and training to transitional justice mechanisms after the departure of BNUB as agreed in the Joint Transition Plan. Partners have already expressed strong interest in funding a stand-alone OHCHR presence.

52. While the United Nations country team is actively engaged in the rule-of-law sector and implements activities in close cooperation with BNUB, it does not currently have all the necessary resources to be able to compensate for the loss of BNUB contribution to this area. UNDP intends to increase its capacities to absorb some of the tasks currently being performed by BNUB in this area into its existing programming, and is recruiting a rule-of-law adviser and three international United Nations Volunteers to strengthen its rule-of-law component. In addition, a team of the Global Focal Point on Police, Justice and Corrections, comprised of representatives of UNDP, UN-Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and OHCHR, was deployed to Burundi from 27 April to 6 May 2014 to support the development of a United Nations rule-of-law strategy for Burundi.

53. While the current level of involvement of the international community in Burundi's security sector should ensure continuity, the departure of BNUB could produce capacity gaps in advocacy efforts at the political level, including with regard to the issue of small arms and light weapons. Relevant United Nations regional political offices could provide support in this regard. In addition, the African Union Commission intends to increase its capacity and expand its involvement in this area to help close possible gaps.

54. The end of the mandate of BNUB is unlikely to have a significant impact in the socioeconomic development area, as related activities are already well covered by the United Nations country team. It is therefore not expected that the transition process will lead to other resource requirements in this area, provided that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes receive the remaining funding for their

respective programmes as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

55. According to the Joint Transition Plan, the smooth transition of BNUB depends on a number of key assumptions. Among these are a stable security situation and an enabling environment that will allow BNUB to continue to implement its mandate until 31 December 2014, and the United Nations country team and its partners to continue their work without restrictions on their operations or the diversion of resources to address emergency needs. The Joint Transition Plan also assumes that all stakeholders will actively support and contribute to the process and that international partners will provide active and timely financial support to the country team and increase their own capacity in critical areas. Finally, the Plan assumes that there will be strong national ownership by the Government of Burundi at all levels of the transition and the creation of conducive political conditions on the ground that is characterized by political dialogue, and the strengthening of democratic institutions and good governance, all of which are indispensable elements for a successful and peaceful transition process.

V. United Nations electoral observer mission

56. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2137 (2014), the Department of Political Affairs has been making preparations for the establishment of an electoral observer mission to follow and report on the electoral process in Burundi immediately following the end of the mandate of BNUB. The mission will be fully operational on 1 January 2015 and will follow and report on the various stages of the presidential, parliamentary and local elections, as well as the overall context under which the elections will take place. It will be based in Bujumbura and will have a small field presence. It is envisioned that it will comprise slightly over 30 substantive staff and some support staff. An advance team will be deployed in the last quarter of 2014 to commence preparations.

57. In carrying out its mandate, the electoral observer mission will interact and engage with a broad range of stakeholders, with a view to gathering information and contributing to the creation of an environment conducive to the holding of peaceful and credible elections. It will also work closely with other partners, including the African Union.

VI. Observations

58. Political tension remains high in Burundi, despite attempts by national actors to address key issues through dialogue and consensus. With the consensual adoption of a new Electoral Code and the signing of a code of conduct for the 2015 elections, Burundi has laid the foundations for a peaceful and participatory electoral process. In this regard, I welcome the announcement of the electoral calendar. However, the continuing mistrust that has shaped relations between the ruling party and other actors risks undermining these achievements. Now more than ever, Burundi must protect and promote the spirit of dialogue and consensus that has driven the peace consolidation process since the 2000 Arusha peace agreement. It is incumbent on both the Government and the opposition to play their part in ensuring a continuing consensual approach to peace consolidation and to abide by the commitments they

have made within the framework of the Electoral Code, the code of conduct and the electoral road map. I urge the Government to promote dialogue between all national actors, including civil society, undertake confidence-building measures and guarantee space for all political parties, including those from the extra-parliamentary opposition, to exercise their political freedoms. Likewise, I encourage opposition parties to fully participate in the political life of the country and play their role in providing the alternatives and choices that are vital to any democratic system.

59. The 2015 elections will be a critical milestone for the long-term stability of Burundi. If the elections are peaceful and inclusive and if they are conducted in a credible manner, they offer an opportunity to consolidate Burundi's democratic transition. Less than a year from the elections, I am concerned by the steady increase in acts of violence and human rights violations compared with the corresponding period in 2013. Credible elections also presume a level playing field that allows for fair competition between candidates before electoral events, and for citizens to be able to make a choice without fear of violence or intimidation. Unfortunately, this is not the case now. While I commend the efforts of the Independent National Commission for Human Rights to strengthen respect for human rights in Burundi, I urge the Government of Burundi to take all necessary measures to ensure the exercise of public freedoms, notably the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, opinion and expression, and to assure the protection of all human rights defenders.

60. While I note that the number of extrajudicial killings has markedly declined, Burundian authorities must make a greater effort to ensure that all human rights violations are seriously investigated and that perpetrators are held accountable. In this regard, I am particularly concerned by acts of violence and human rights violations reportedly perpetrated by members of youth wings of political parties, in particular of the majority party. The apparent impunity enjoyed by this group is particularly troubling. I call on those who have influence over the group to ensure that such actions cease, and that those responsible are brought to justice. I also reiterate my call on the Government and political parties to take all necessary steps to ensure that the country's youth are neither politically manipulated nor commit violent acts. In this regard, I welcome the initiative of the Ombudsman to bring together youth from different political parties to discuss their role in consolidating peace and fostering tolerance in a challenging environment. I encourage the Burundian authorities to continue undertaking such commendable initiatives.

61. I welcome the steps taken to further professionalize the justice system. However, I remain concerned by the limited progress in increasing its independence and its accountability. I am concerned that limited follow-up of serious cases of human rights violations contributes to entrenching a culture of impunity. I am also concerned that the prosecution of certain highly visible cases and other uses of the judicial system give the impression that justice is being instrumentalized. Continued efforts will be necessary to ensure that all accused receive a fair trial, and that respect for the independence of the judiciary is further enhanced.

62. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is a critical mechanism to further peace consolidation, reconciliation and development. Experience has shown that transitional justice mechanisms need to be fully owned by the population, their representatives and civil society at large. This can be done only through a

participatory and inclusive process. While I regret that a large consensus was not reached during the elaboration and adoption of the law establishing the Commission, there is still a vital need to guarantee the independence, and through it, the credibility of the Commission. This is the only way to protect its role in establishing the truth on past human rights violations, address the pressing needs of victims, establish responsibilities and promote national reconciliation. I urge all concerned actors to ensure that the Commission accomplishes its mandate in an independent manner, and addresses all issues at the heart of the conflicts that have marked Burundi's recent past.

63. I take note of the law establishing a special court on land issues. I appeal to the Government to protect the Court from political interference, and continue to ensure that land tenure is addressed in the broader context of socioeconomic development, bearing in mind the need to foster reconciliation and national cohesion, especially in the run-up to the 2015 elections.

64. Socioeconomic development remains a key ingredient in the consolidation of peace in Burundi. I therefore welcome the idea of a round-table meeting, as a follow-up to the Geneva partners conference of 2012, to assess progress and remaining challenges, renew mutual commitments and develop a blueprint for Burundi's development beyond 2015. Such a blueprint, coupled with credible elections in 2015, would help create a conducive environment for greater external investment and donor support.

65. I welcome the development of the Joint Transition Plan for Burundi, which will guide the transfer of responsibilities from BNUB to the United Nations country team, the Government, and national and international partners. I am encouraged that the Plan was developed in a spirit of partnership and cooperation and that it received the full support of all stakeholders involved in the process. While BNUB prepares to draw down, it will continue to implement its mandate to ensure continued progress towards the agreed transition benchmarks. To effect a smooth transition, I call on the international community to increase its political and financial engagement in order to address critical gaps. This should include equipping the United Nations country team to assume greater responsibility after the departure of BNUB and supporting a stand-alone OHCHR office to ensure continuity in addressing human rights challenges in the country. I encourage regional organizations to further increase their engagement with Burundi and urge the Government to preserve a political environment conducive to the peaceful, smooth and sustainable transfer of tasks.

66. I wish to take this opportunity to thank President Nkurunziza and his Government for their continued cooperation with the United Nations. I would also like to express my appreciation to Burundi's development partners for their continued engagement and support of the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in Burundi. Lastly, I sincerely thank all United Nations personnel who, under the able leadership of my Special Representative, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, have continued to show commitment and dedication in supporting the consolidation of peace in Burundi.

United Nations A/ES-10/646–S/2014/551

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 30 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed to draw your attention to the most recent horrific incidents of war crimes and State terrorism committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, in particular in the besieged Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian situation has become catastrophic owing to Israel's destructive and deadly military aggression.

Now in its twenty-third day, this Israeli war against the occupied and defenceless Palestinian civilian population in Gaza continues to cause high civilian casualties and massive human suffering. As at the time of writing of the present letter, at least 1,269 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, using all means of lethal weaponry and warfare. Among the dead are at least 147 people pulled from the rubble of flattened homes on Saturday, 26 July, during the period of the humanitarian ceasefire.

This immense death toll includes approximately 287 children, along with 141 women and 57 elderly persons. Moreover, it must be brought to the attention of the international community that, from the onset of this barbaric Israeli war, the Ministry of Health has confirmed that the Israeli occupying forces have targeted 52 Palestinian families, brutally killing 285 members of those families. In addition, the number of civilians injured, many severely and permanently, continues to rise. In total, at least 7,110 Palestinians have been injured, including more than 2,164 children, 1,100 women and 282 elderly persons.

We are compelled to convey to you the list below, which includes just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations, many of them amounting to war crimes, committed by Israel, the occupying Power, since our last letter, of 25 July 2014. Some events that occurred prior to our letter, but for which information was not available at the time, have also been included.

14-58532 (E) 070814

Please recycle

On 30 July:

- At least 15 Palestinian civilians were killed and almost 100 wounded when Israeli tanks shelled a United Nations school where 3,300 displaced people were taking shelter in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) confirmed that it had informed Israel 17 times of the precise location of the Jabaliya school in order to ensure its protection and also that it had informed the occupying Power that it was sheltering Palestinian civilians. It should be noted that this marks the sixth time that a United Nations school has been hit by the Israeli occupying forces since 7 July. In a statement today, the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, stated the following: "Last night, children were killed as they slept next to their parents on the floor of a classroom in a UN designated shelter in Gaza. Children killed in their sleep; this is an affront to all of us, a source of universal shame. Today the world stands disgraced."

- Further in this regard, as of yesterday, at least five more staff of UNRWA were killed by the shelling and strikes of the Israeli occupying forces.

On 29 July:

- The Israeli occupying forces killed 16 members of the Abu Jabber family, including four children, in the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza.

- Thirteen members of the Al-Agha family were killed, including four children, by Israeli airstrikes on three homes in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza.

- Israeli occupying forces killed a United Nations doctor and his brother in northern Gaza.

- Israel bombed Gaza's only power plant, which supplies two thirds of Gaza's electricity, putting it out of commission. Regarding the impact on Gaza's already severely damaged electrical grid, the United Nations has already stressed that "the additional reduction in electricity supply is expected to have a pervasive impact on the availability of food and access of people to basic services". Several areas are also now exposed to high public health risks owing to the mixing of sewage with piped water, as a result of unrepaired damages to the networks. It should be noted that prior to the bombing of the power plant, the civilian population in Gaza had already been without electricity for at least 20 hours each day.

On 28 July:

- Ten people, including eight children, were killed; 40 others were wounded by Israeli shelling at a park near the beach in Shati refugee camp in Gaza City. The attack took place while families were sombrely observing the holiday of Eid Al-Fitr, which marked the end of the month of fasting of Ramadan. One of the fathers who had been playing with his children at the park stated: "In the blink of an eye, I found body parts and heads cut off, no arms, no legs. I started to collect limbs, heads I couldn't recognize and I couldn't recognize my own children."

On 27 July:

- Eight Palestinians were killed and several more were injured in Gaza by the occupying forces.
- Israeli occupying forces shelled houses in Al-Salam neighbourhood in Jabaliya, northern Gaza, killing two Palestinians: a 22-year-old man and a 4-year-old child.
- Fourteen Palestinians were injured with live bullets during clashes with the occupying forces in Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, in the West Bank. Occupying forces also shot a paramedic in the leg with live fire and injured two persons volunteering with the Red Crescent.

On 26 July:

- The bodies of 11 members of the Hilo family were pulled from the rubble of their home in Shejaiya, which had been bombarded by the Israeli occupying forces a week before.
- Shortly before a 12-hour ceasefire came into effect, approximately 20 members of the Al-Najjar family were killed, including 11 children, and many others were wounded when their home was attacked by the occupying forces in southern Gaza. According to reports, they had been trapped inside the home since Thursday.
- Palestinian rescue teams pulled the bodies of 85 Palestinians from under the rubble of homes completely levelled by Israeli shelling across the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupying forces heavily shelled Beit Hanoun hospital in northern Gaza, injuring 60 paramedics and patients.

On 25 July:

- Fifteen-year-old Abdullah Alathamna, who had lost his mother, two sisters and a foot when the Israeli military bombed his home in 2006, was injured again by an Israeli attack, suffering shrapnel wounds to the back and leg when Israeli occupying forces bombed his home again.
- Two Palestinians, aged 16 and 18, were killed overnight by live fire from occupying forces during riots in the West Bank in protest against the Israeli military aggression in Gaza.

On 23 July:

- The Palestine Cellular Communications Company announced that Gaza's only cellular telephone network was at risk of going down because of damage done by Israeli bombing.

In addition to the above, as a result of Israel's nearly three-week bombardment against Gaza, the humanitarian crisis, which was already extremely dire owing to Israel's eight-year illegal blockade, has declined to catastrophic levels. More than 240,000 Palestinians have been internally displaced and, of those, more than 180,000 have sought shelter in UNRWA schools. The high number of Palestinians being sheltered by the United Nations amounts to 10 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip and triple the number of persons who took refuge with UNRWA during Israel's devastating war against Gaza during the winter of 2008-2009.

Yesterday, 29 July, UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness warned of the severe strain on UNRWA capacity, stating: "We have reached breaking point with this massive wave of human displacement. This will leave the warring parties, especially the Government of Israel, to assume direct responsibility [for displaced Palestinians]."

Moreover, as of today, 22 hospitals, clinics and medical centres have been directly hit by Israeli fire and the occupying Power continues to target medical staff, including staff travelling in clearly marked ambulances.

While witnessing the horrifying images and testimonies from those on the ground, one cannot but recall many of the observations made by the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict in the aftermath of Israel's so-called "Operation Cast Lead", in 2008-2009, which stated: "While the Israeli Government has sought to portray its operations as essentially a response to rocket attacks in the exercise of its right to self-defence, the Mission considers the plan to have been directed, at least in part, at a different target: the people of Gaza as a whole" (A/HRC/12/48, para. 1883). Tragically, the same can be said of Israel's current war on Gaza.

The international community, including the Security Council, must exert all possible efforts to bring this bloodshed and immense suffering of the Palestinian people to an immediate end and to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of the grave breaches it has committed against the people whose land it occupies. The presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 28 July was an important step, but what is needed now is a strong Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of the blockade on Gaza and the immediate provision of protection for the Palestinian people under occupation. Here, we echo what was said by the UNRWA Commissioner-General in his press statement today: "We have moved beyond the realm of humanitarian action alone. We are in the realm of accountability. I call on the international community to take deliberate international political action to put an immediate end to the continuing carnage."

We urgently appeal to the international community to answer the calls of the Palestinian people under occupation, who are crying out in despair for help, as well to heed to the calls by all those who value the sanctity of human life, including the lives of the Palestinian people and their children. The killing must end. The suffering must end. The siege must end. It is beyond the time for the international community to make good on its promise and take all measures necessary to bring an end to Israel's occupation and all the ills that have become manifest as a result and allow the Palestinian people to live a free and dignified life in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This letter is in follow-up to our 512 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 July 2014 (A/ES-10/645-S/2014/539) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2014/552

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 1 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations stating that Ms. Corinne Kitsell has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

14-59062 (E) 120814

Please recycle